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Gay Republicans and allies push for a  
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**Understanding the down low**  
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**See Jane run**  
Actor Thomas Jane  
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# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 34 • 19 August 2004

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## SF marriages invalid

### LGBTs: Ruling 'bump in the road'

by Matthew S. Bajko

**A**mid tears and anger at having their marriages dissolved last week by the state Supreme Court, gay couples overwhelmingly viewed the decision as merely a "bump in the road" in the fight for marriage equality.

Most gay leaders and city officials echoed that sentiment over and over again last Thursday, August 12 as they reacted to the court's ruling that since Mayor Gavin Newsom did not have the authority to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples that the more than 4,000 licenses are null and void.

"In San Francisco gay marriage is an Olympic event and we are going for the gold," Supervisor Tom Ammiano yelled to wild applause during a rally in the Castro Thursday night. "I thank you and remember this: I do! I do! I do!"

Supervisor Bevan Dufty added, "It is a bump in the road. We will succeed. We will win. To the couples I say in my eyes your marriage is real and the fight has just begun."

Ken Stram, who married his husband Steven Campbell on Valentine's Day, said the court's ruling was expected but, nonetheless, sad.

"We got used to the idea of being married after it happened. Now it is gone," said Stram, the LGBT Community Center's economic development director. "We are not going to change the way we think about each other."

Joyce Newstat, the mayor's policy director whose marriage was officiated by Newsom in a private ceremony in City Hall, said she too was not surprised by the court's action.

"I am fine with it. The struggle continues," she said. "No one can take away from me and my wife and my family the joy of  
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Same-sex couples and their allies take to the streets August 12 to protest the California Supreme Court's decision invalidating the marriages performed in San Francisco.



Attorney General Bill Lockyer speaks to reporters after the court decision.

### Lockyer questions validity of Leno's marriage bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

**A**ttorney General Bill Lockyer raised doubts last week that California lawmakers could enact pro-gay marriage legislation through the Legislature. Instead, he signaled that they might have to go through the ballot box.

As lawsuits seeking the right for same-sex couples to marry work their way through the lower courts, California's LGBT community has turned its sights toward passage of Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco) Marriage License Non-discrimination Act.

If passed, the legislation would require state officials to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Leno tabled his bill – the first of its kind in the nation to be voted out of a legislative body when it passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee – this spring when it became clear he didn't have the necessary 41 votes to pass it out of the full Assembly. With the backing of Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles), Leno intends to reintroduce the bill in December and has said there is a 50-50 chance of it being signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger next fall. Already, gay rights activists have been mailing the governor pink postcards asking him to sign the legislation.

But during a press conference last Thursday, August 12, held 45 minutes after the California Supreme Court invalidated the more than 4,000 same-sex marriages performed in San Francisco, Lockyer indicated  
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## Dramatic coming out for NJ governor

by Bob Roehr

**T**he governor of New Jersey, James E. McGreevey, stepped before the cameras of the hastily called news conference on the afternoon of August 12 to announce, "I am a gay American."

He also acknowledged that he had an adulterous affair with another man; briefly alluded to "circumstances surrounding the affair and its likely impact upon my family and my ability to govern;" and said he



Gov. James McGreevey

would step down as governor – but not quite yet.

It was a scenario that would make even the daily soap operas blush. Other details seeped out over the ensuing days, particularly from the governor's side, which was better staffed and prepared to spin the initial story.

As the state's leading newspaper the *Star-Ledger* noted in an editorial on August 13, McGreevey spoke "Not the truth, but 'my truth.'" In doing so, "He was dishonest with himself and those closest to him. And he

was dishonest with New Jersey."

In retrospect, McGreevey, just 47, showed all of the signs of the best little boy in the world, recognizing in his youth that he was gay but suppressing that for social and political reasons, and overcompensating in other areas of his life.

He was raised in a conservative middle class family, devoutly Catholic and an altar boy, and went on to three prestigious institutions, undergrad at Columbia, a master's in education from Harvard, and a law degree from Georgetown.

He started as a state prosecutor in New Jersey, was elected to the state Legislature, then mayor of Woodbridge. He lost his first bid for governor in 1997 but came back to  
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# Good crowd for first bear street fair

by Louis Anthes

When the sun finally burned through the late Sunday morning fog and the DJs started spinning, bears, admirers, and people of all sorts came in throngs to the inaugural Hairrison Street Fair in San Francisco's South of Market District.

Measured in terms of official attendance figures, given by Hairrison treasurer Bill Vigna, around 5,000 people showed up. Financially speaking, Hairrison significantly exceeded expectations, according to the fair's main organizer, Pete King.

More important, the people who actually opened their wallets for the "Bear Tag" weekend pass or even for the \$5 suggested donation for the August 15 street fair were happy on the whole. Darwin Bebo, Bears of San Francisco president, whose group was not involved with the planning or organizing of the fair, said he was pretty impressed. He compared Hairrison to another summer bear party, Lazy Bear, which is held annually in July up in Guerneville.

"Lazy Bear's a lot more produced. This is different. It's good," Bebo commented.

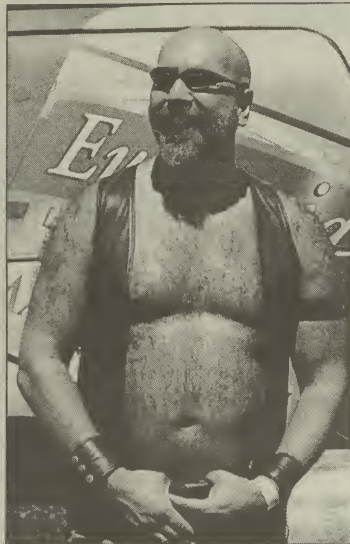
Gabriel Celis of San Francisco echoed Bebo's interpretation. Celis, who refuses to be categorized with bears or any group, came on Sunday to check Hairrison out. He said, "It's like a giant party. It's not really a street fair. There's not a lot of vendors out everywhere," suggesting that it was a lot less commercial, more laid-back than other street fairs.

Not everyone, though, was impressed. Robert Martinez from Los Angeles, dressed up in a toga following Friday's "Greek Gods" party at the Best Western Motel, complained, "the bear tags were too expensive for what you got." He didn't think he would return to Hairrison if it were held again.

In general, though, most people enjoyed cruising Harrison Street between 9th and 10th, taking detours into the Lone Star Saloon, or turning the corner into the Best Western Motel and its outdoor pool, all of which was done up with miniature lights, trees, and shrubbery, like an outdoor camp.

But beyond the type or number of people who came, or how much money the fair made, Hairrison was different, because it imaginatively blended the commercial space of a building like a motel with the open space of the street and sidewalk. Of all the things one might say was truly new about this street fair — besides the fact it was for the bears — it upset conventional understandings of the difference between public and private in the context of a gay party. It wasn't just that horny, hairy men could easily "get a motel room, puhlease!" or that chubby chasers could break from dancing to take a quick skinny dip. Rather, the Hairrison Street Fair projected, for an afternoon, the utopian fantasy of an entirely queer city, where class boundaries could be penetrated for five bucks.

Of course, not all was as open and free as things seemed inside the gated world of the Hairrison



Eric Rofes was one of thousands of people who attended the inaugural Hairrison Street Fair.

Street Fair on Sunday. Mark Silva of Vallejo came specifically to San Francisco for the weekend to chase bears. He thought that the bears had the reputation of being inclusive, given how they often complained of exclusion from other gay venues. He was surprised to discover that there were certain private sex parties for bears that were invitation only. In fact, much of what Silva found out is nothing new. The bear movement has been around long enough to make some people sufficiently wealthy that they can promote social distinctions based on stereotypes of bear beauty. Nonetheless, it stung Silva a bit to find that out.

In addition to bear cliqueness, the large chain-like fence that surrounded most of Harrison Street on Sunday vexed Hairrison's utopian possibility. Other San Francisco street events deploy barricades. Hairrison's fence was,

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# Study tests demand for late night health services

by Matthew S. Bajko

Working out of a white camper van parked during the late night hours in three gay sections of the city, health department researchers are studying the benefits of offering HIV testing and screening of sexually transmitted diseases to "night owls."

Between 2 and 4 a.m. the workers set up their van in the Castro on Fridays, in the Polk on Saturdays, and South of Market on Sundays. The project is an 18-month, \$100,000 study funded by the university-wide AIDS Research Program at the University of California.

"We proposed the pilot to test the feasibility of providing late night services in the Polk, Castro, and SOMA," said Valerie Kegebein Rose, manager of policy and evaluation research with the health department's HIV prevention section. "If this proves to be a desired service and people will want and use the services, our office may decide to put in a request for proposals from agencies to offer late night services. No one offers late night services. Most end at 5 or 6 p.m."

The array of services, dubbed a "late night breakfast buffet" by Rose and her staff, includes oral HIV testing, needle exchange, testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea, as well as offering water and snacks donated by Clif Bars and Rainbow Grocery. They also have donated T-shirts from Working Assets, toothbrushes from Walgreens, and cosmetic bags from Working Essentials to hand out.



From left: Jen Shockey, Ari Bachrach, and Weihaur Lau at DPH's mobile van in the Castro last week.

As for the testing, which is confidential, "We don't draw any blood," explained Rose. "None of it is rapid. The results are given in two weeks in the office."

The late night team is also gathering research and hopes to survey 100 men who have sex with men. During the initial intake, the men are asked a series of questions that takes 45 to 50 minutes and then are contacted again in three months.

"We want to evaluate what we did and if those interventions had an effect," said Rose.

The fieldwork began July 1 and the team will be out on the streets every weekend until the end of October. In the first two weeks they were out at night they enrolled three people in the survey. The target audience, Rose said, is homeless people, sex workers, or drug users who are out and about in the late night, early morning hours.

"We are not really trying to reach the bar crowd," she said.

Last Friday, with the van parked near Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro on 18th Street, Rose and her staff enrolled one man in the survey, handed out several condom packs to men who stopped by and tested one man for HIV and STDs.

"It's been really good so far," said Rose as she handed out cards about her study to men as they walked past. "We see lots of people in terms of needle exchange and condoms. We have heard from a lot of people that it is great that we are out here."

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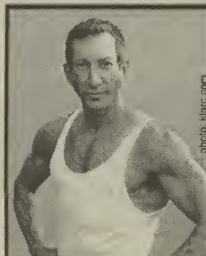
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## News in brief

by Cynthia Laird

### Meeting for black men

What's it like for black men in the Castro? People are invited to a community meeting Tuesday, August 24 to sound off and discuss the issue. The event, entitled "Black Men in the Castro," takes place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Magnet, 4122 18th Street. The evening will be moderated by longtime activist and Pride 2004 grand marshal Calvin Gipson and will include open mike program where people can share (in about five minutes) their thoughts and concerns — in words, music, or poetry. A dis-

cussion period will follow. The meeting, the second of its kind this summer, is sponsored by Magnet and Our Love/Stop AIDS Project. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Our Love at (415) 575-0150, ext. 273, or Magnet at (415) 581-1605.

### Sisters accepting grant applications

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence mark 25 years of activism this year and one of the most successful forms of that work is the community grant program. The Sisters will award \$10,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations in the Bay Area and beyond and

applications are not being accepted.

The grants are distributed three times annually, and while applications are accepted throughout the year, the deadline for the latest round is August 31.

Since 1979, the Sisters have raised and distributed over \$500,000 to a variety of groups that serve the queer and sex-positive communities. Traditionally, the Sisters have given grants to smaller organizations and projects that provide direct services to the community.

For more information about the grants, contact Sister Dionna Cross at SISTERdionna@yahoo.com or visit www.thesisters.org. ▼

## Schwarzenegger gets his first LGBT bill

by Zak Szymanski

The first LGBT equality bill has reached Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's desk, and advocates are optimistically awaiting his signature.

AB2900 — by Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), and sponsored by Equality California — passed the state Senate on Tuesday, August 17. The bill is the Omnibus Labor and Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2004, and will standardize over 30 labor and employment non-discrimination provisions to make them consistent with California's Fair Employment and Housing Act.

FEHA was updated in 2000 to

include protections on the basis of any "perceived" characteristic protected by law: race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, sex (including gender identity), age, marital status, and sexual orientation. But not all labor and employment statutes followed suit, prompting Laird's bill, to ensure "that California workers and employers have one standard — the Fair Employment and Housing Act — by which to judge discrimination and that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals are included in that standard," according to Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, who added that AB2900 is not limited to LGBT workers, and simply makes

sure everyone covered under FEHA is covered consistently.

Kors told the Bay Area Reporter that there is no indication the bill is controversial for Schwarzenegger.

"Our sense, and from what we've heard from his office, is that he had no questions, and didn't see any issues or concerns," said Kors. "He's consistently said he supports full equality, and while he thinks marriage rights can be achieved through domestic partnership, this bill doesn't even address that question."

Kors said it is a busy time for LGBT bills, with two LGBT resolutions, and AB2208 — an insurance equality bill — expected to be approved by the Legislature within the next week. ▼

## Two gay/trans murders in CA last weekend

by Zak Szymanski

A San Francisco transgender woman and a person from Fresno tentatively identified as a gay male cross-dresser were victims of murder last weekend, and community advocates are calling for full investigations and possible hate crimes charges.

A transgender woman, who went by the name Delicious, but whose family knew as Tony Green, 46, was murdered on Friday August 13 in the Franciscan Hotel, according to Community United Against Violence, whose advocates are working with police and family members. Currently the murder is under investigation and anti-transgender bias is being

looked at as a motive, said CUAV.

The victim's family is holding a community vigil for her on Sunday, August 22, at 7 p.m., at 27 Garlington Court (cross street: La Salle) in Bay View Hunters Point. There will be a reception following the vigil in the same neighborhood. Friends, family members, and the com-

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# Mixed reactions to trans-inclusive ENDA

By Zak Szymanski

**E** NDA Gets Trans-jacked," read the headline in the *Washington Blade*, the gay newspaper owned by the national conglomerate Window Media, which also publishes the *New York Blade News*, *Southern Voice*, and *Houston Voice*.

"It is mind-boggling that HRC has caved into trans activists and other groups," wrote executive editor Chris Crain in response to the recent decision by the Human Rights Campaign to support the gay protective Employment Non-Discrimination Act in Congress only if it is amended to include gender identity and expression protections.

Over the past few weeks many LGBT activists and advocates have hailed the recent decisions of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force—and, more significantly, the more moderate HRC—to support a transgender-inclusive ENDA. The legislation was originally written in 1994, outlawing employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. It failed to pass the Senate by one vote in 1996.

For years, HRC and sponsoring legislators like U.S. Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) have been the target of criticism for refusing to push for gender identity protections in the bill. Gender is usually the identifying factor of antigay discrimina-

tion, noted critics, and the transgender identity overlaps for many gays and lesbians. Furthermore, said activists, it was not right for groups to leave out an entire segment of the LGBT community while claiming to be representative of the entire community.

This month, HRC, ENDA's main sponsor, agreed, with HRC President Cheryl Jacques announcing on August 7 that "We are strongest as a community when we are united and that's why we need the strongest and most unifying protections." The HRC statement went on to say that without gender identity and expression protections, many lesbians and gays remain vulnerable: "Attorneys who specialize in civil rights laws believe that ENDA without gender identity and expression explicitly stated may not adequately address discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans who are often singled out because they're viewed as not conforming to gender norms."

While thousands of LGBT activists rejoiced over the announcement, thousands more, it seemed, were disheartened.

Frank came out against the HRC announcement, despite previously published reports that he had been educated on the issue and was accepting of a trans-inclusive amendment.

Frank told the Boston LGBT newspaper *Bay Windows* that

many co-sponsors would pull their support from a trans-inclusive bill. Simultaneously, the newspaper hosted an online poll that showed just 52 percent of the community favoring a trans-inclusive ENDA, with 29 percent opposed and 19 percent unsure.

According to *Bay Windows*, Frank also said that passing the bill would require, at minimum, provisions to allow for employer discretion: "ENDA has to be worded to make it clear that people with one set of genitals don't have the right to go to the women's locker room."

This stance is unnecessarily controversial, say activists who have long agreed that drafting regulations are always a part of the legislative process. Frank also has relied on a decades-old sound bite that seeks to pass a narrow law immediately and "come back for" excluded populations later.

The *Blade's* Crain also used the familiar argument that ENDA would be even more difficult to get passed with transgender inclusions.

"If HRC and these other groups have their way, workplace protection for gays and bisexuals will be held hostage until a majority in Congress (and the president) agrees to protection for transgender employees," wrote Crain. "This 'trans-jacking' of ENDA is wrong politically, legally, and even

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### Thursday, August 19th

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9:00 pm

### Friday, August 20th

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2:00-7:00 pm  
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**Contestant Registration**  
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4219 El Camino Real, Palo Alto



### Saturday, August 21st

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## OPEN FORUM

## A governor's secret...

New Jersey Governor James McGreevey dropped the political bombshell of the year last week when he came out as a gay man and announced that he would resign from office due to the fallout from an extramarital affair with a man. McGreevey's stunning announcement came just hours after the California Supreme Court invalidated more than 4,000 same-sex marriages performed in San Francisco, in what will arguably go down as one of the most gay-heavy news days of the summer.

While McGreevey's signature line from his news conference, "And so my truth is that I am a gay American," was powerful, the circumstances surrounding his decision to out himself cast a pall over the story and raise troubling questions of political patronage and deception that go against what we as a community want to achieve — equality and respect.

It has become clear in recent days that McGreevey installed his ex-lover in a sensitive government post for which the man, Golan Cipel, apparently was unqualified. Facing heat over the decision to appoint Cipel to the state homeland security department (for which he could not get a security clearance from federal officials), McGreevey then shuffled him around to other government positions before Cipel left the state payroll a couple of years ago.

According to published reports, in recent weeks an attorney for Cipel threatened to file a sexual harassment suit against McGreevey, which appears to have been the deciding factor in the governor's decision to come out.

McGreevey, who's married and the father of two daughters, was emotional during his news conference as he described the struggle and anguish he has endured over his sexuality. And we know that coming out is not an easy matter. Perhaps most bothersome was McGreevey's decision to use the word "shamefully" as he described his affair. "I am also here today," he said, "because, shamefully, I engaged in an adult consensual affair with another man, which violates my bonds of matrimony. It was wrong. It was foolish. It was inexcusable." The ambiguous phrasing can leave the impression that McGreevey feels ashamed for having an affair with another man. It sends a confusing message to the public, who may conclude that McGreevey resigned because he is gay,

which is not accurate.

Within minutes of McGreevey's announcement, however, national gay rights groups put out statements calling the governor "courageous" and "honest." Those are not accurate either. "What we witnessed with McGreevey," wrote Steve Yuhas in an opinion piece in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "was not a courageous, honest, or an unfortunate man finally coming to terms with the demons of his closeted life. What we witnessed was a cowardly attempt to deflect attention from a scandal-laden administration that gay organizations have decided to ignore because they can now add a gay governor to their list of openly gay public officials."

There's a lot of truth to that statement. Not once during his news conference did McGreevey actually admit what the catalyst was for his sudden decision to come out. As pundit Roger Simon noted on his Web site, had McGreevey really exhibited courage and candor, he might have said something like, "I put my lover on the public payroll in a job for which he was not qualified. That was wrong; I am sorry and am resigning immediately."

The other disturbing aspect of the Mc-

Greevey affair, as Yuhas noted, concerns marriage. "For all the complaining about gays being refused the right to marry, it is shocking that the bonds of matrimony that McGreevey broke are of so little consequence to gay activists that they ignore them in their press releases and act as if the adulterous affair between McGreevey and Cipel is simply collateral damage in the coming-out process."

Are we as a community so desperate to have an openly gay governor (even if only for a few weeks or months) that we'll look the other way as his marriage suffers because of his actions? Here in San Francisco, McGreevey had barely finished his news conference than hundreds of same-sex couples gathered in the Castro to protest the Supreme Court decision. Couples who had their marriages voided were in tears. (And we're being asked — or prodded — by national organizations and so-called spokespeople of the community to embrace this adulterer? We think not. McGreevey may be a gay American, and he may be freed from the secret life he lived for many of his 47 years, but the governor is no hero to the gay community. ▼



Editorial



## ... and two justices

Last week's decision by the California Supreme Court that San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom exceeded his authority when he ordered city officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples was not a surprise. Legal experts all along were extremely doubtful that the mayor's actions would hold up, borne out by the unanimous 7 to 0 decision on that question.

The justices also ruled — on a vote of 5 to 2 — to invalidate the more than 4,000 same-sex licenses issued by the city in February and March, during what has become known as the "Winter of Love." Many gay rights advocates had hoped that the court would side-step the license issue for now, but the majority felt that such a delay was "unwarranted" because the family code currently defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. "We do not believe it would be responsible or appropriate for this court to fail at this time to inform the parties to the same-sex marriages ... that these marriages are invalid, notwithstanding the pendency of numerous lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of California's marriage statutes," the court wrote in the majority opinion.

Two justices — Joyce Kennard and Kathryn Werdegar — offered vigorous dissents from this second determination and by doing so gave gay and lesbian couples who married some validation of their relationships. Kennard, as she did during oral arguments in May, was concerned about invalidating the licenses when the couples were excluded from the legal proceeding. "That determination should be made after the constitutionality of California laws restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples has been authoritatively resolved through

judicial proceedings now pending in the courts of California," she wrote.

Most striking in Kennard's dissenting opinion is the thoughtfulness she gives to same-sex couples. "For many, marriage is the most significant and most highly treasured experience of a lifetime," she wrote. "Individuals in loving same-sex relationships have waited years, sometimes several decades, for a chance to wed, yearning to obtain the public validation that only marriage can give. In recognition of that, this court should proceed most cautiously in resolving the ultimate question of the validity of the same-sex marriages performed in San Francisco, even though those marriages were performed under licenses issued by San Francisco public officials without the proper authority and in violation of state law."

Werdegar, too, had concerns with the process in reaching her decision that the court should not have invalidated the marriages.

"The same-sex couples challenging those statutes claim the state has, without sufficient justification, denied the fundamental right to marry to a class of persons defined by gender or sexual orientation," she wrote. "Should the relevant statutes be held unconstitutional, the relief to which the purportedly married couples would be entitled would normally include recognition of their marriages. By analogy, interracial marriages that were void under antimiscegeny statutes at the time they were solemnized were nevertheless recognized as valid after the high court rejected those laws in *Loving v. Virginia*. By postponing a ruling on this issue, we could preserve the status quo pending the outcome of the constitutional litigation.

Instead, by declaring the marriages 'void and of no legal effect from their inception,' the majority permanently deprives future courts of the ability to award full relief in the event the existing statutes are held unconstitutional. This premature decision can in no sense be thought to represent fair judicial process."

More significantly, perhaps, Werdegar also took exception to the majority's "unnecessary, wide-ranging comments on the respective powers of the judicial and executive branches of government." She was critical of the majority opinion that characterized Newsom's actions as a "threat to the rule of law" and pointed out that when the court ordered the city to halt the nuptials on March 11, San Francisco officials immediately complied.

"While city officials evidently understood their oaths of office as commanding obedience to the Constitution rather than to the marriage statutes they believed to be unconstitutional, those officials never so much as hinted that they would not respect the authority of the courts to decide the matter," Werdegar wrote.

Kennard and Werdegar deserve kudos for bucking portions of the majority opinion. We have a conservative state Supreme Court and, while it was disheartening to read the majority decision, the two dissenting opinions offered gays and lesbians evidence that at least these jurists "get it." Kennard understands what we are fighting for and that marriage is an institution of our society. Werdegar clearly sees that the majority opinion over-hyped the powers of the judicial branch. We certainly wish more of the justices shared their opinions. ▼



## LETTERS

## Court's marriage decision

It is interesting to note that, as long as you are heterosexual and you are talking about the union of one man and one woman, there is almost no reason why the state of California could deny the issuance of a marriage license. The federal courts have ruled that you can be a convicted child molester, bank robber, murderer, or convicted of any felony. You could be incarcerated in prison and the state of California, or any other state, cannot deny the issuance of a marriage license if application is made. However, if two people who are of the same sex are law-abiding citizens, have never been convicted of a felony, are not incarcerated, and are productive tax paying members of society apply for a marriage license, the law says their application must be denied. Convicted felons have access to the 1,049 federal benefits of marriage. Apparently the California Supreme Court fails to appreciate what is the matter with this picture.

The California Supreme Court would have us all believe that Mayor Gavin Newsom's revelation that a "defense of marriage" law is unconstitutional is whimsical and arbitrary. The justices make it sound like Gavin just got out of the wrong side of the bed one day and was disoriented and confused. The court made a critical error in not recognizing he had good cause and good reason to take the position he did. These are our judicial "experts" and they act like they have never read the equal protection clause of the U.S. or the California constitutions. I understand that Gavin has provided copies of the equal protection clause free of charge. I strongly suspect that, if our good justices do not have a copy, Gavin will provide them with one - again.

George Collins  
Berkeley, California

## B.A.R. 'offends all gay people'

I have just finished the "Ex-gay minister preaches in Dolores Park" story [August 12] and I can't stop to say to you something: Are you crazy to put this in the most famous gay newspaper in the world?

First of all, what are you going to say in the end of your article - gays you are wrong to be gay or what?

I can't find the right words to describe the stupidity of what you did for all gays of San Francisco by your article. Do you understand that you offend all gay people in the world by your stupid article like this one?

Think about it, please, before you put it in the gay newspaper.

Georgy Prodorou  
San Francisco

## Ammiano has helped District 9

As a community resident for over 59 years, I must take exception to supervisorial candidate Miguel Bustos's comment in the recent election roundup article ["LGBT candidates face off for city supervisor," August 12] that "our needs are not being met... our district is being neglected." In fact, one need look no further than the most recent city budget for the example of current District 9 Supervisor Tom Ammiano's successful effort to restore funding for the renovation of the grounds and clubhouse at Rolph Playground, and the creation of a new playground for St. Mary's Park.

In the past, Ammiano has successfully worked on a wide range of issues affecting his district, such as the assignment of permanent police officers to lower 24th Street in the Mission; working with the Lower 24th Street Merchants Association on community parks as well as with the Mission Merchants on securing a community benefit district; and taking a strong position to keep the trauma unit and emergency room at 23rd and Potrero and not allowing it to be moved to Mission Bay. And with the support of the voters, he will continue to do so for the next four years.

Bob Hernandez  
San Francisco

## Supe candidates and bathhouses

Ineligibility to vote in District 5 or 9 supervisorial races should not prevent San Francisco's pro-bathhouse, gay voters from asking candidates in these districts what their positions might be with regard to the health department's continuing ban on privacy in gay sex clubs (i.e., the ban that prevents such venues from reopening as bathhouses with private cubicles and enhanced facilities or inhibits entrepreneurs from opening new bathhouses to replace those discouraged from remaining open 20 years ago).

Of those candidates your reporter discusses in his roundup, only District 9's Lucrecia Bermudez has a clear record: when Community United for Sexual Privacy waged its campaign against the ban five years ago, she bravely opposed it. District 5's Bill Barnes, on the other hand, in his capacity at that time as Mayor Brown's AIDS czar, defended the ban at a meeting of the HIV Prevention Planning Council where a majority nevertheless voted to recommend ending the ban.

Although the Milk Club had previously likewise voted its opposition, its endorsed candidates, Tom Ammiano and Robert Haaland, have only gone on record with their silence over the years. Since to date the health department has never been able to provide scientific evidence in its support, its continuation presents a fair issue for candidates to exploit for whatever it may be worth in differentiating themselves from the competition.

Reid Condit  
San Francisco

## AIDS and Marin County

Thanks to the Bay Area Reporter for your recent article on AIDS services in Marin County ["Marin AIDS groups plan for the future," July 15]. As a PWA of African American descent who emigrated from San Francisco to Marin about five years ago, I wanted to add my voice to the discussion. The problem in Marin is not just that we are getting less money but what we are doing with the money we get and how we are treated as PWAs by those providing the services we receive. I live in San Rafael, so I go to the Marin AIDS Project, which proclaims itself "the lead AIDS service provider in the county" (think the AIDS foundation of Marin).

Like a lot of PWAs for example, I'm in need of dental services. When I asked my benefits counselor at MAP where I could find an HIV knowledgeable dentist in Marin, I was told that "we (Marin County) had lost our dental benefit" and that the best I could do was to go to the Marin Dental College and wait for a chair to open. She added, "It would probably take about three months before I could get an appointment." This came from a representative of an organization that says the two terms "case manager" and "client advocate" are interchangeable.

So when and where is MAP going to advocate for dental services for me or any other PWA who needs them?

For the better part of two years I asked the same organization if I could join one of their advertised support groups. I was told, "We used to do that, but since the new drugs (protease inhibitors) came out, people didn't want to go to an AIDS support group because everybody was going back to work." Okay, so where did the money go that was supposed to be used for these advertised groups? A few months ago, MAP finally organized a support group for people living with HIV/AIDS. When the original group of 12 or so PWAs met, many said they wanted to join this group because they felt alone. Isolated, and that had no friends or knew few if any other people living with HIV/AIDS in the county. If everybody wanted to return to work because they were on protease inhibitors, where did this group of people come from?

I almost died two years ago and being hospitalized at Marin General with MAC [mycobacterium avium complex]. My life partner divided his time between work as the sole breadwinner of the household and taking care of me. Outside a small support system of close friends, we received very little if any practical, emotional, or respite support from the county HIV services that receive CARE Act funding. In a county as rich and resourceful as Marin, that should not have to happen to me and it should not be happening to any other PWAs. MAP, along with other AIDS service providers, are trying to treat us like inmates at a state institution and not like people living with a life-threatening disease. I just won't go along with that program.

I've heard of written records containing sensitive information being faxed around the county without the specific knowledge of PWAs. Providers have periodic conferences regarding us but we don't have access to the service providers as a group nor are we invited to any of these meetings. I have a case manager at every AIDS agency I've been to here in Marin. They're all very busy and they all get paid to create and maintain files on me containing pretty much the same information. I get a visit from my case manager from MAP every three to four months, but no one seems to do anything to help me with the stuff I need help with. Resources, like the dental program, just disappear into thin air. Most importantly, no one seems to be making any attempt to include PWA consumers in any of the discussions or communications at any level concerning the services that affect our very lives. Like another version of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," nobody's asking or telling us anything.

Will Carter  
San Rafael, California

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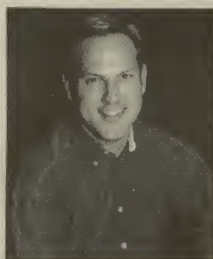
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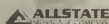
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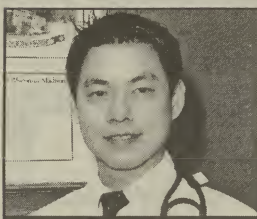
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SAN FRANCISCO

# On the level

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

This has been a big year for large, paradigm-shifting events as far as transgender issues are concerned. It's a time to celebrate these changes – and to look for the next steps.

After a decade or so of vigorous work on the part of transgender people and our allies, the Human Rights Campaign has finally taken a stance that it will only support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act if it includes language protecting transgender people. As someone who can recall the roots of this struggle, it's wonderful to finally see HRC reach this position.

In national politics, we've seen the Democratic National Convention host its first contingent of transgender delegates, showing a growing political clout for transgender people in the realm of politics.

I would be remiss, with the Summer Olympics going on in Athens, not to note this as the first Olympiad to allow transsexuals to openly compete in the games.

That's all big stuff and worthy of celebration within the community.

With each, it shows that the acceptance of transgender issues has reached a new level of acceptance within the broader community, in the political arena, and in the world of sports.

I'm reminded of how – via my own gender transition – I've discovered that acceptance can have many layers to it. When I began my gender transition, my father decided he did not wish to see me. It was something he simply could not accept.

Since that time, we've gone through many levels of acceptance, with him being able to speak to me, then see me, then use my current name and pronouns of choice, and finally – only a few days ago – referring to me as his daughter.

These were personal shifts that took as long as it took HRC to go from being flat-out opposed to including transgender issues within the organization to where it is today.

Each of the above has gone through several levels, and each of these came with plenty of strife. The Olympic decision led to claims that transgender people would have a clear advantage, and "straw man" arguments that male athletes would don dresses to gain an advantage. The Democratic National Convention was assailed as somehow caving to "special

rights" by even having transgender delegates.

With HRC, its decision allowed for those within the community at large to get involved, claiming that HRC was somehow "trans-jacked" by actually working to protect the rights of all identified groups in the organization's mission statement. As if it is somehow acceptable for HRC to intentionally exclude one group over another, given that its stated goals do not contain any such favoritism.

HRC's change in positions has been glacial in comparison with many other organizations. The

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has been working on transgender issues for nearly a decade that I know of, with Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

showing themselves to be strong allies for a handful of years. These latter three groups in particular have gone beyond mere "acceptance" into full inclusion of transgender issues in their mission and goals.

I find it interesting that the three groups I singled out above never changed their names to include "transgender" in their acronyms – yet at the same time I know there have been plenty of other organizations that did add the word to their name and mission, yet have never even reached HRC's current level. These groups may well have added the "T" under some pressure to be inclusive, or perhaps out of good intentions – but they may have never really worked to be inclusive as well as understanding of our needs and desires.

Even in the three items I started this column off with, there are still many levels yet to be reached. Perhaps all three are indeed still at a level of acceptance, but are not yet truly there when it comes to understanding the needs of transgender people.

While I salute the Olympics for finally realizing the needs of transgender people in sports, I wonder how long it will be before a trans athlete actually gets a chance to compete. Many sports bodies do



not allow transgender people an opportunity to perform, meaning that transgender athletes cannot get the level of training that others might have available. In effect, this makes the decision of the International Olympic Committee a nice gesture, but something still unobtainable.

At the Democratic convention, while it was wonderful that so many transgender people were a part of the event, these same people ended up being little more than a "token" group, as they had to bargain away a position within the party's platform. Never mind also that the candidate of choice was the only one to go on the record against transgender inclusion within ENDA. Which brings me back to HRC.

It's great that HRC have finally come to support transgender inclusion in ENDA, but I find it frustrating that it took protests, activists picketing HRC's booths at Pride parades, and a decade of toil to get this far. The fact that this is still a limited decision – not covering any other bills that may come down the line in the future, and giving HRC plenty of "wiggle room" in regard to current bills other than ENDA. If anything, it shows that there are still other levels to reach, and still more work to be done.

Perhaps there will come a time when HRC will not have to be reminded that it represents transgender people, when both political parties will not be afraid to openly support transgender issues, and when transgender athletes will have a real chance at a gold medal.

That would truly be the difference between mere acceptance, and actually seeing transgender people as being equal to all. ▼

Gwen Smith celebrates this, her 100th Transmissions column in the Bay Area Reporter. You can find her on the World Wide Web at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).

## HRC

◀ page 5

morally. And it's the latest sign that the groups at the supposed helm of the movement for gay civil rights are out of touch with their constituents and sadly adrift when we need them the most."

Crain also said he didn't believe that gender identity protections would benefit the average gay or lesbian individual.

"HRC has made the peculiar claim that gay people sometimes endure discrimination because they are effeminate men or butch lesbians and won't be protected unless ENDA is trans-inclusive. In fact, HRC and the trans activists have it exactly backwards, and they

know it," said Crain, adding that it is more likely to have a boss fire a trans woman for being "a fag" than for a gay friendly boss to fire a man for being too effeminate.

But those supportive of gender identity inclusion say those arguments miss the point. While an antigay boss is more likely not to distinguish between transgenders and gays, a court ruling about workplace discrimination could indeed decide that because a person's private life was not specifically targeted, no illegal discrimination occurred.

Still, Crain conceded he is not concerned about leaving transgenders out of the equation.

"If legislation can be achieved that wins some civil rights for some people – in this case, almost

all of HRC's constituents – that is better than nothing," he wrote.

Scott Wiener, a San Francisco resident who is a board member of HRC, has heard it all before. To critics, he can only direct their attention to the 1964 Civil Rights Act that originally did not include gender as a protected category and was actually amended as a way to kill the bill, under the assumption that the addition would make it harder to pass. Instead, the addition generated more support, and while Wiener realizes "this is not the exact same situation," he said that adding gender identity to ENDA "certainly makes it a stronger bill in terms of what it will accomplish, and could make it a stronger bill politically, because it has more integrity." ▼



## POLITICS

# NJ governor comes out

by Wayne Friday

At a point in every person's life, one has to look deeply into the mirror of one's soul and decide one's unique truth in the world, not as we may want to see it or hope to see it, but as it is. And so my truth is that I am a gay American."

With that August 12 statement, New Jersey Governor **James McGreevey**, with his wife and parents at his side, stood before a packed news conference and a nationwide television audience and became the country's highest-ranking openly gay elected officeholder.

McGreevey (D), along with three openly gay members of the House of Representatives (two Democrats, one Republican), are America's highest ranking gay elected figures. The fact that the governor went before the nation to announce his sexuality, despite the circumstances under which he did so, still says a lot about where the country has come – regardless of the simultaneous announcement that he plans to resign from office.

Though McGreevey says he will resign in three months because he had an affair with a male lover that left him vulnerable to "false allegations and threats of disclosure," reports of financial improprieties by the governor and alleged attempted blackmail threats by his former male lover overshadowed the fact that McGreevey openly admits to being a gay man.

The first-term governor, who has been tainted by political scandal practically since taking office, said his resignation would take effect November 15, though since his news conference Republicans and some Democrats have urged that he step aside sooner. New Jersey has no lieutenant governor, so if McGreevey hangs on until November, **Richard Cody**, the Democratic state Senate president, will become acting governor.

Though McGreevey said he was resigning due to the extramarital affair he had been having with a man, what he did not mention was that there are allegations that there were financial scandals involved with his administration and, of course, the alleged threats of blackmail involving his former male lover, **Golan Cipel**, a 33-year-old Israeli citizen. However, an attorney for Cipel held a news conference the following day denying statements hinted by the governor's aides that Cipel had demanded "several million dollars" from McGreevey to avoid a threatened sexual harassment lawsuit.

In fact, **Jim Margolis**, a media consultant for the governor, suggested that McGreevey was actually not resigning because he was coming out as a gay American but because "the threats that were being made were part of what made it difficult for the governor to continue to do his job in the way that it needed to be done. He knew that once the word got out about the [threatened] lawsuit, regardless if the charges were false, that all that would be left would be a circus out there."

McGreevey, 47, who has been married twice and has two daughters, reportedly met Cipel during a trip to Israel in 2000 and asked



New commissioner: Jennifer Cipi, 17, left, a city resident and out lesbian, is Supervisor Bevan Duffy's pick to the San Francisco Youth Commission.

him to come back to the United States. Cipel, who since last week's story broke now claims he's straight, served as a liaison to the state's Jewish community during McGreevey's successful 2001 gubernatorial race, and upon becoming governor, McGreevey gave Cipel the \$110,000-a-year position of special counsel on homeland security – a position for which Cipel did not appear to have any qualifications. The federal government refused to give him a security clearance because he was not a U.S. citizen.

Cipel resigned the homeland security position shortly thereafter, but McGreevey retained him at the same salary as a "policy counselor." Cipel

left the administration late in 2002, but with the governor's help, landed a lobbying job. He later lost that job and a subsequent one in public relations.

While charges and countercharges continue over whether McGreevey was threatened with intended extortion or whether Cipel, as he now claims, was the "victim of repeated sexual advances" by the governor, **Micah Rasmussen**, the governor's press secretary, insisted this week that "these are completely and totally false allegations from a person trying to exploit his relationship with the governor," adding that "the matter has been referred to federal authorities for investigation."

Meanwhile, the nation's gay community largely looked upon the fact that the country now has an acknowledged openly gay governor of a major state as being bittersweet. **David Catania** (R), the openly gay Washington, D.C. councilman, told the *Los Angeles Times* that "it would be nice if a governor was elected who was gay and proud; there aren't a lot of opportunities for Americans to see gays in office. Now, to see someone (possibly) abusing their power, it's not much to be proud of."

San Francisco Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D) told the *Times* that not everyone was sanguine that openness about sexuality was any easier today. "Keep in mind that we are in living in an era where the president thinks the marriage of two loving same-sex people is something that we have to prohibit in the U.S. Constitution," Leno said.

According to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, there are now 275 openly gay and lesbian elected

official in the U.S.; in 1991, when the fund was organized, there were only 49.

What I think is more important is not that headlines were made last week with the announcement that a big-state governor had come out of the closet – that in itself should no longer be even newsworthy. As **Daniel Zingale**, the openly gay former cabinet secretary to former Governor **Gray Davis** told the *Times*, "The fact that you have the governor of a big state saying, 'I am a gay American' without shame is a monumental step, (but) my concern is that young people in particular might misunderstand the headlines, concluding that he resigned because he's gay."

Clearly, while some gay officials were expressing concern following the McGreevey affair that voters might regretfully judge other gay elected officials by the actions of one high-profile officeholder, I don't think that will be the case. Hopefully, we, as a nation, have moved past that.

## Politics and people

There was Representative **David Dreier** (R) of Southern California on MSNBC's *Scarborough Country* over the weekend with Democratic consultant **Joe Trippi** and others as Dreier gingerly discussed whether New Jersey Governor James McGreevey, having announced his homosexuality, could effectively govern that state for the next three months or should he, as host **Joe Scarborough** insisted, step down now. Read this Congressman Dreier: at least Governor McGreevey, albeit having been probably forced to do so, had the courage to come out in front of millions of Americans on national television to declare "I am a gay American" – something a lot of closeted politicians still don't have the balls to do.

California Republican U.S. Senate nominee **Bill Jones** would do well to avoid any future television debates with Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D). At last week's televised debate from L.A., Boxer all but kicked Jones's ass and gave him some government lessons along the way. During the debate Jones twice accused Boxer of voting to cut \$400 million in intelligence funding while she was chair of the Senate's "subcommittee on intelligence." A surprised Boxer retorted: "Mr. Jones, there is no such subcommittee on intelligence and I have never in my life voted against an intelligence budget. Jones later conceded that he had misspoken and Boxer went on to inform Jones that she sits on the subcommittee on foreign rela-

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# HRC and the end of ENDA

by Dale Carpenter

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act is dead, a victim of Republican opposition, Democratic indifference, and now the foolishness of the country's richest and most prominent gay civil rights organization. Abandoning common sense, the Human Rights Campaign announced in early August that it will no longer support federal legal protection for millions of gay workers unless the tiny number of transgender workers gets that protection too. The decision is a slap in the face to gay Americans, who generously fund HRC, and who will now have to wait even longer for federal employment discrimination protection.

ENDA was first introduced in Congress in 1994. From the beginning, it has been a carefully calculated compromise between the need for broad protection from discrimination and the practical realities of a political world just now getting used to the subject of homosexuality. From the beginning, it banned only employment discrimination, not discrimination in housing, education, or public accommodations. From the beginning, it applied only to relatively large employers. It exempted religious employers. It banned quotas.

And from the beginning, ENDA protected workers only from antigay discrimination, not from discrimination for a host of other reasons, like "gender iden-

ty," which would include transgender people.

Until this month, HRC opposed adding gender identity to ENDA. In the judgment of Capitol Hill vote-counters, including uber-liberals Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), a transgender-inclusive ENDA could not pass Congress. Adding transgender protection would, in their judgment, scare off Republican congressional sponsors already in hot water for supporting protection for gays. That, in turn, would scare off some moderate Democrats.

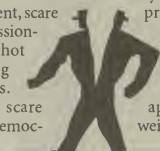
Without the support of at least a few Republicans and moderate-to-conservative Democrats, ENDA could never pass—even if the Democrats somehow regained control of Congress. Better to pass an imperfect ENDA, one that gives at least some workers some degree of protection from discrimination, than to pass no ENDA at all. As HRC political director Winnie Stachelberg said just a year ago, "Now is not the time to add gender identity to ENDA."

What changed? Defending the group's about-face, HRC has offered a mix of woolly principle and manufactured pragmatism.

On the principle, HRC notes that transgender people, especially those transitioning from one sex to the other, face harassment on the job and even termination,

Thus, they need legal protection just as gay people do.

That's true, but it does not answer the question why ENDA must as a matter of principle include gender identity. Lots of people face discrimination for lots of bad reasons, but that does not mean one bill must address every conceivable problem. Even a trans-inclusive ENDA will not be truly all-inclusive, since it won't protect people from other forms of discrimination, including perhaps the most common forms of discrimination based on appearance (like height, weight, and homeliness).



OutRight

HRC cites the need for "unity" in the "LGBT community," claiming that most gays support employment protection for transgender people. That may true in the abstract, but it's very doubtful most gays would support trans-inclusion if informed it would kill any chance of protection for gay workers.

On this critical point, HRC fails to produce any evidence that a trans-inclusive ENDA won't lose congressional support. That's what motivated HRC's opposition to trans-inclusion to begin with. Has HRC consulted the leading sponsors, Republican and Democrat, on the issue? How many votes will be lost? HRC has not answered these questions.

HRC also defends its reversal on what it calls "pragmatic" grounds. The group's new president, Cheryl Jacques, argues that

adding gender identity to ENDA is a matter of gay self-interest. She hypothesizes that an employer might fire a gay man solely because he's feminine in appearance and manner, rather than because he's gay. The employer could then produce gender-conforming gay employees to prove it tolerates such gays, escaping ENDA's sanctions.

That's a make-weight argument based on a very unlikely scenario. Where is this Dodo bird of an employer who loves gays but detests gender nonconformists? Jacques provides no real-world example, and I am aware of none.

Moreover, to the extent an employer discriminates on the basis of a person's gender nonconformity there is arguably already some protection under Supreme Court interpretation of existing federal law. No such precedent protects gays from discrimination.

"Passing ENDA without gender identity and expression is like passing a copyright law that covers books and television shows but doesn't cover digital music or videos," Jacques concludes in an op-ed. I'd say it's more like passing a copyright law that covers books, television shows, digital music, and videos, but omits a single CD manufactured in a leap

year on a Thursday during a full moon.

It's possible that ENDA could still advance in Congress without the support of HRC (or of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which long ago withdrew its support for the same reason as HRC, or of the Log Cabin Republicans, who seem only mildly interested anyway). Members of Congress, after all, aren't required to get HRC's approval before moving gay civil rights legislation. Put to an up-or-down vote right now, ENDA without trans-protection might well get majorities in both houses of Congress (it fell just one vote short in the Senate in 1996).

But there is now no longer any group in Washington, D.C. representing the interests of gay Americans on the subject of employment discrimination. That will make it very difficult to pass any employment legislation for the foreseeable future, even with a Democratic Congress and president. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com). Some of his past columns can be read at [www.indegayforum.com](http://www.indegayforum.com).

## Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

tions, a committee that has no jurisdiction over intelligence budgets. "If you want to go to the U.S. Senate, you need to know how it works," Boxer told Jones after the debate.

With supporters of same-sex marriage being handed a setback by the California Supreme Court last week, the debate now moves to another arena—the state Legislature. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) intends to reintroduce a gay marriage measure in December, and with the committed support of Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles), Leno predicts it will make it through the Legislature and eventually end up on Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's desk, where it could still face a possible veto despite somewhat encouraging comments made recently on the issue by the Republican governor.

LGBT caucus cleans up: *California Journal* magazine has bestowed its biennial "Minnie Awards" (so named after Minerva, the goddess of wisdom who graces the state seal) on members of the state Legislature and members of the LGBT Legislative Caucus received special recognition in several categories. State Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), who's in the running to become president pro tem of the upper house, was a repeat winner in the "Quick Study" category, and was mentioned as one of the state Senate's "Elite" members. She was also recognized in the "Integrity," "Problem-Solving," and "Hard Working" categories. Assemblymen John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) and Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) were mentioned in multiple categories, including the Assembly "Elite," the "Freshman Elite," "Integrity," "Problem-Solving," "Hard-Working," and "Quick Study." Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) was mentioned as part of the "24/7" crowd in the "Hard-Working" category along with Laird and Leno. Congrats to our able legislators.

The San Francisco Public Util-

ities Commission voted unanimously to confirm Mayor Gavin Newsom's appointment of Treasurer Susan Leal to be the new general manager of the city's public utilities system and Leal says she is ready to get on the job. Leal: "I'm excited by the challenges and opportunities ahead to rebuild our water system, create alternative energies, and further enhance the trust and confidence in the SFPUC among our customers and regional partners." Who will become the city's new treasurer? Newsom had not announced an appointment by my deadline.

Green Supervisor Matt Gonzalez endorsed fellow Greenie Ross Mirkarimi, who floats between being an investigator in the district attorney's office and running political campaigns, as his replacement in District 5. Some backers of fellow Green and former Planning Commissioner Lisa Feldstein, are reportedly none too happy with Gonzalez's decision to endorse Mirkarimi; seems some Feldstein backers claim it was Gonzalez who encouraged Feldstein to enter the race to begin with. I don't live in District 5, but if I did I'd be voting for either Bill Barnes or Robert Haaland, both good Democrats. Incidentally, former D.A. Terence Hallinan has endorsed Mirkarimi while current District Attorney Kamala Harris is backing Haaland.

Note to all supe candidates: Don't take any political contributions from Julie Lee, or if you already have, think about returning them—pronto!

A reader writes: "George W. Bush and his misguided war on Iraq has done for international terrorism what Prohibition did for organized crime," and I couldn't agree more.

Meanwhile, is Dubya Bush totally aware of how important Florida is to his keeping the job he was never elected to in the first place, or what? Jeez, Hurricane Charley had barely headed for the Florida coastline before Bush was releasing tens of millions of dollars to his brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, for relief and hurriedly predicting that the state

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12/02

# Hit man

by Jane Warner

**1** 7th and Sanchez, August 16, 5:20 p.m.: A woman was seriously injured when her car was broadsided by another car whose driver fled the scene. The woman, who was driving a 2003 black Volkswagen GTI, proceeded through the intersection of 17th and Sanchez, and was struck on the driver's side door by a gray Geo Prism who witnesses said ran the stop sign. After the collision, two male occupants of the Geo got out of the car and ran northbound on Sanchez. The driver, described as either Samoan or Hispanic, 20-25 years old, and wearing a white 49ers jersey, waited until paramedics arrived and then also fled on foot without giving any information, leaving his car at the scene. Police were unable to determine if the car was stolen, however, the vehicle's stereo was missing and wires dangled from the beneath the dashboard. The woman, 28, whose vehicle sustained extensive damage, was taken to the hospital via ambulance for treatment for her injuries.

### Fetish job

900 block of Guerrero, August 11, 8 a.m.: A woman awoke in the morning to discover that someone had broken into and ransacked her home in the middle of the night while she slept. Several drawers were pulled out from dressers, clothes were strewn about the house, and a window in an adjacent bedroom had been broken. As the woman



Medical personnel take a woman who was injured in a hit-and-run accident at 17th and Sanchez streets to the ambulance.

went through the house, she discovered that a laptop computer, a 10-speed bicycle, and two digital cameras were missing, as well as numerous pairs of women's underwear, four vibrators, several dresses, and a pair of four-inch heel shoes. Police responded to the scene and had the area processed for fingerprints. Because of the nature of some of the items stolen, officers forwarded a copy of their report to the sex crimes detail.

### Crashed

3700 block of 23rd Street, August 13, 4 p.m.: Police responded to a report of a man passed out behind the wheel of a car. When they arrived, they found a newer two-door Lexus with its engine

running, parked in the middle of the road, the driver slumped over the wheel. Officers tried the doors but they were locked. They yelled and pounded on the windows but the man did not respond. Fearing for his safety, the officers notified a sergeant who gave permission to break one of the windows. The officers pounded on the windows but were unable to break the glass. The fire department was called and a firefighter broke one of the windows with an ax. Paramedics roused the man, who told them he had used speed earlier in the day and did not remember driving the vehicle. The man, 28, was taken to the hospital for observation. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

# Sheriff's deputy sues SFFD and city

by Matthew S. Bajko

**J**on Gray, an openly gay San Francisco sheriff's deputy, filed suit last week against the city and the fire department, alleging he was passed over for a firefighter position due to his sexual orientation and being a recovered alcoholic.

In his suit, Gray is seeking compensatory damages for lost back pay, lost fringe benefits, and future lost earnings and benefits, as well as for emotional distress. He is also seeking an injunction requiring that he be hired by the fire department and that the use of a personality inventory and job perception index test be enjoined until it is certified to be job related for recovered alcoholics and homosexuals.

In his suit, Gray alleges that the personality index, which counts for 60 percent of a person's score, is "scored based on responses from pools of persons that did not include a reasonable number" of recovered alcoholics and homosexuals. As a result, he claims the test does not "accurately measure the ability of recovered alcoholics and homosexuals to become firefighters."

Fire department officials have said the test is not used to weed out gay applicants and that the de-

partment is diverse and accepting of LGBT members. City attorney spokesman Matt Dorsey declined to comment about the suit on Wednesday, August 18, saying "I haven't seen the complaint and am not prepared to comment about it at this time."

Since Gray took the firefighters exam in the fall of 2001, he has raised questions about the validity of the test, which he claims purposefully screens out gay applicants. He has filed complaints with city and state agencies and decided to file his lawsuit Thursday, August 12 after investigators with the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing closed his case earlier this year due to lack of evidence.

Originally, Gray said he no longer wanted to work for the fire department. But on the advice of an attorney, he said he included the employment injunction in his suit.

"I was advised I should put that in there. Otherwise they could say if he doesn't want to be a firefighter why file this lawsuit," said Gray.

After the Bay Area Reporter first reported about Gray's claims about the fire department's exam, Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White ordered human resources personnel to obtain a copy of the exam, which she said she has never seen,

as well as a statement by the creator of the test, Dr. James Outtz, as to why certain questions are asked of applicants. Hayes-White said she hoped to issue a report on her findings within 30 to 60 days.

Other gay and lesbian firefighters have since come forward expressing doubts about the exam and the need for better recruitment efforts within the gay community. Openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) has also offered his support to Gray, saying a review of the department's entrance exam is needed.

"There should be some transparency in the application process and screening of those who are interested in serving the city. That appears to be lacking from the information I have gathered," said Leno. "I don't think the resolution of this situation is all that complex, and the reason I called Jon was to offer any assistance in bringing the appropriate parties together."

Gray said he hopes to meet with Leno this week to discuss the matter. Since coming forward, he said he has received support from coworkers at San Francisco General Hospital, where he oversees the facility's jail unit.

"I feel good about what I did. I am glad about what I did," said Gray. "I thought when I filed the lawsuit it would be downhill from there, but it's not." ▼



# Log Cabin Republicans push for unity plank in GOP platform

by Bob Roehr

A small group of moderate Republicans are standing up to social conservatives on the party platform. While they acknowledge little likelihood of success in deleting provisions they find offensive at this late date, they are urging adoption of a unity plank (see box).

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans; Ann Stone, chair of Republicans for Choice; and Eli Allagoa, managing director of the Republican Youth Majority, pushed the unity plank at an August 16 news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

"We are not here today to tell those who disagree with us on issues relating to gay and lesbian equality that they are not welcome in our party," Guerriero said. "We understand that there are a variety of opinions on these issues within the Republican Party and we respect and we honor that diversity as part of our tradition."

"We are here today to tell the far right that they do not own the Republican Party. This party, our party, the Republican Party, belongs to no one person and no one group. And it is time that our platform reflects that reality."

Guerriero reeled off the list of moderate speakers that are scheduled for prime time during the



From left: Christopher Barron, Ann Stone, Eli Allagoa, and Patrick Guerriero discuss the unity plank.

Republican convention at the end of the month, including California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, New York Governor George Pataki, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "All of these speakers in prime time have long histories of supporting policies that respect the Republican Party's diversity. In particular, all of these speakers have opposed policies that marginalize and discriminate against gay and lesbian Americans."

"It is not enough to have these inclusive voices be the face of the Republican Party in prime time if the platform only represents the

exclusive voices of Gary Bauer, Jerry Falwell, and Rick Santorum."

"It is time to tell the far right that they are welcome in this party, but they are just one part of a diverse and strong GOP," he said. "We are here today representing the party's future."

Stone said, "Our differences with the GOP leadership are on issues of privacy and individual rights – fundamental questions of Republican politics. ... On the issue of abortion, are we only for individual rights for men and not for women?"

"We are asking for the platform to reflect the primetime line-

up that you are going to see at the convention," Stone added. She wants the GOP to get government out of the bedroom.

Stone said they are pushing for several other assurances from party leaders, including censure for state and local party officials who work against pro-choice or gay and lesbian members of the party.

Allagoa said, "We cannot let our differences blind us to the big picture." He saw two reasons why the party should support the unity plank. The first is that integration and inclusion is the way that Republicans can retain their majori-

## Party unity plank

The plank reads as follows:

We recognize and respect that Republicans of good faith may not agree with all of the planks in the party's platform. This is particularly the case with regard to those planks dealing with abortion, family planning, and gay and lesbian issues. The Republican Party welcomes all people on all sides of these complex issues and encourages their active participation as we work together on those issues upon which we agree. ▼

ty status now and in the future. The other is that it can help reelect President Bush.

When asked what the consequences would be if the unity plank is not adopted, Guerriero said, "The repercussions are ultimately on election day." He said that Bush carried Florida by only about 500 votes when up to 50,000 gays and lesbians in the state voted for him.

"The kind of message that comes out of the convention will determine whether those 50,000 voters stay with the president, go elsewhere, or don't vote." He said the Log Cabin board would not make its endorsement decision until after the convention.

Stone said that national polling over the years "shows that 68 to 75 percent of Republicans are pro-choice – there is no downside to doing this." A survey of Republicans for Choice members earlier this year found that 36.8 percent were prepared to vote for Bush;

next page ►

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# Plan calls for merchant group to oversee Halloween in the Castro

by Matthew S. Bajko

Business owners in the Castro have long viewed Halloween as a major headache, with street closures impeding foot traffic in stores and rowdy revelers causing damage. Along with vocal outcries from residents who also dread the hordes and the problems the yearly street party in the Castro brings, merchants have repeatedly petitioned city leaders to do some-

thing to improve and rein in the Halloween happening.

Last year marked the first time city officials banded together to address the problem. Spearheaded by Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who made creating a safe Halloween a focal point of his 2002 election campaign, representatives from the neighborhood, business district, fire and police departments, and the city's artistic community met for months to better plan for the evening.

After what many called a suc-

cessful event last year, the manager of this year's Halloween party is asking the merchants to take on an even larger oversight role for the event. Audrey Joseph, a member of the city's Entertainment Commission who is overseeing the planning of this year's party, is proposing that the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro become the fiscal sponsor of Halloween.

"Halloween is going to happen no matter what we do. So we have to have the safest, best event we can have. We want the merchants to take a bigger role," Joseph said during MUMC's August 5 meeting. "If you at least hold the purse strings you have some control."

The idea is for Halloween's organizers to give MUMC \$2,000 from the money collected at the gates this year in order for the business group to form a 501(c)(3). In doing so, MUMC would be in charge of the event's finances, in effect becoming the executive producer of Halloween.

"I urge you—we will pay for it—to setup this 501(c)(3). You would have a greater say in your neighborhood," Joseph said.

For MUMC members, it was the first time hearing about the idea. MUMC President Herb Cohn said the group's board of directors would take up the issue at its next meeting.

"It's a fine idea but insurance is a concern," said Cohn, who said a better solution would be for a Castro community benefit district to act as the fiscal sponsor. "We are in the process of forming this bid, which could take over this event."

Currently, San Francisco's Pride Parade is the fiscal sponsor for Halloween. As fiscal sponsor, the group acts as the recipient of money allocated or donated to the event. According to Joseph, the city's risk management division purchases the insurance for the event and the money goes through the Pride committee. The city usually buys \$1 million in protection for Halloween, said Joseph.

"It is a blanket policy. It covers anything that might happen in the neighborhood which did not involve city personnel," who are already covered, Joseph said.

Several MUMC members expressed concerns about being responsible for the insurance of the event. Steve Gaynes, who oversees the Castro Street Fair, said the cost for insurance has gone up for his event, from \$10,000 to \$18,000



The scene at last year's Halloween street party in the Castro

this year and the city refused to help pay for it.

"We went to Grants for the Arts this year and we were denied a grant. Even the Symphony and the Opera have been cut," Gaynes said. "What guarantee can we get from the city that Grants for the Arts will cover us for the insurance?"

The Entertainment Commission has received \$28,000 from Grants for the Arts to pay for the insurance for this year's event, Joseph said. The amount is three times more expensive than last year, when insurance for the event cost \$9,000.

In July, the city's supervisors voted to make Halloween a city-sanctioned event. So unlike the Castro Street Fair, which is a private event, Halloween is a public-private event that the city is involved in, explained Joseph.

"You will get the money," she said. "The city has a hand in it and will not allow you to go uninsured."

As for waiting for the Castro CBD to form, which could take anywhere from a year to 18 months to be completed if property owners vote for it, Joseph said she would like to see MUMC step in now. Forming a 501(c)(3) takes six to eight months, and Joseph said the desire is to see MUMC have everything in place for Halloween 2005.

After the meeting, Cohn said

he is willing to consider the proposal but once again reiterated that it would be better suited for a Castro CBD to oversee.

"I see this as a natural project for the new CBD. If MUMC needs to take hold of it for one year, then it is something we should consider," he said.

As for this year, Halloween falls on a Sunday and plans call for duplicating the entertainment at last year's event. The party will run from 6 p.m. to midnight and will feature the March of Light Parade and four stages. The parade and Red Bull have each signed on to sponsor a stage and organizers are seeking two other stage sponsors. Each stage costs about \$5,000 to \$7,000 to produce.

Clear Channel Communications has once again agreed to donate billboard and radio advertising to promote the event, and Joseph said she is confident she will find two more stage sponsors.

Patrick Batt, past president of MUMC who met with Mayor Gavin Newsom earlier this month, said that the mayor agreed to allocate \$17,000 to help pay for civilian security at the event. The funding is less than the \$20,000 the city gave toward Halloween's costs in 2003.

With the success of last year's event to build on, Dufty promised at the MUMC meeting that Halloween, "is going to be a lot better this year." ▼



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## Log Cabin

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24.5 percent said yes but that could change; while 38.7 percent said no. She said, "They need a reason to come home again."

Guerriero said Log Cabin's national poll showed only 1 percent of the electorate thought that gay marriage was a critical issue. Most voters put it at the bottom of their top 10 priorities.

"The greatest sign that part of what we are doing makes sense politically comes from [Bush political guru] Karl Rove. ... The reality is, you don't see Jerry Falwell speaking in prime time, you don't see Rick Santorum speaking in prime time. ... The reality is that the people running the campaign decided to put our allies out there" to appeal to undecided and swing voters, said Guerriero.

Stone said a majority of swing voters are always women. She intimated that her group might stage a floor fight over the abortion plank if it is not accommodated. She said pro-choice Republicans have been "too civil for too long, and have to get down and dirty."

Guerriero recalled the 1992 GOP convention where the raging of Pat Buchanan "calling for a cultural war and a religious jihad" is believed to have contributed to the first President Bush losing re-election.

George W. Bush took almost half of the under 30 vote in 2000, but polls this year show that Democrat John Kerry is carrying that demographic by at least 2 to 1. All of the speakers agreed that Bush's emphasis on the social issues near and dear to social conservatives "turns off" most younger and independent voters. ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Complementary HIV therapies debated

by John Iversen

Howard Armistead is a man with a mission. He was everywhere at July's XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, handing out flyers and holding a news conference.

Armistead, who is not a medical doctor, is touting a complementary combination of selenium, aspirin, and a multivitamin supplement to enhance standard HAART antiretroviral therapy. Given the Bush administration's roadblocks to cheaper generic AIDS drugs in developing countries, Armistead suggests people with HIV take this cheaper combination until affordable treatment is available.

Armistead is not asking people to stop taking AIDS drugs but to enhance overall health with supplementation. He said he has been taking 1.2 grams of aspirin, 400 mcg of selenium, and a multivitamin for 15 years.

"When I added the aspirin (enteric coated taken with meals throughout the day) and selenium to the standard AIDS treatment cocktail, it led to my full immune restoration and balance that HAART therapy alone did not achieve," he said.

According to Armistead, "Selenium is the only supplement that actually has anti-HIV properties. Selenium is a natural reverse transcriptase inhibitor. It also reduces HIV by inhibiting nuclear factor kappa binding (NF-kB), the protein that activates HIV gene replication. It is necessary for the formation of glutathione, an essential antioxidant that influences inflammation. Finally, it is essential for the basic operation of both the cellular and humor immunity. Supplementation with selenium can reverse the decline in immune function caused by HIV's depletion of the body's selenium supply."

Dr. Claire Borkert, of the East Bay AIDS Center, is open to selenium supplementation, but at a lower dose. "A study was published in *AIDS Research Human Retroviruses*, 1994 Nov; 10(11):1451-61 that talks about the inhibiting properties of selenium. This is probably the study where he got the information about inhibiting nuclear factor kappa binding. It is talked about in ex-cruciating detail," Borkert stated. "Another interesting study - Serum Selenium vs. Lymphocyte Subsets and Markers of Disease Inflammation Response in HIV-1



Howard Armistead

Infection (*Biology of Trace Elements*, 1997 Jan, 56(1):31-4) - also talks about the immune response with people taking selenium. I'm not aware that taking more than the recommended daily dose is helpful - and too much selenium can cause nausea, vomiting, hair loss, peripheral neuropathy, and mental status changes - so people should not mega dose selenium. Selenium deficiency is known to cause cardiomyopathy and skeletal muscle dysfunction so it is very important - in trace amounts."

Borkert, of the East Bay's largest AIDS practice, also cautioned, "It would be good for people to check first with their medical provider before just starting this regimen."

Armistead reported that "in a small series of clinical trials salicylate drugs like aspirin have been shown to reduce HIV replication by 60 to 65 percent, roughly equivalent to AZT's ability to inhibit HIV. The anthill effects of aspirin-like drugs have been reported in over 15 medical journal articles. Aspirin reduces HIV replication by inhibiting NF-kB, the transcription factor that stimulates HIV genetic copying in the CDR cell's nucleus."

Borkert said use of aspirin makes sense as it is an anti-inflammatory agent.

Dr. Jeff Burack, also of EBAC, raised more questions: "Aspirin certainly heals many ills, but likewise hasn't been used in controlled trials in HIV. The dose at issue is large enough to cause serious worry about bleeding or stomach ulceration."

Burack noted, "As I'm sure you know, there was just a large study published from Kenya on the clinical benefit of multiple vitamins (B, C, E) in people who were not

on HAART. There is no data for people being treated."

"The use of a multivitamin supplement constitutes an essential part of low cost HIV combination therapy. Vitamin E helps potentiate the beneficial effect of selenium. Iron promotes HIV replication and should be avoided," asserted Armistead, who also directs the International Project for Affordable Therapy for HIV.

Acupuncturist Elliot Wagner has been providing complementary therapy to AIDS patients for years at Oakland's Center for AIDS Services and Walden House in San Francisco. "PWAs should take a high quality multivitamins to replace lost micronutrients."

Wagner also recommends NAC, a precursor to glutathione, which is low in PWAs, and antioxidants (especially Vitamin C), Vitamin D, and selenium. He also recommends alpha-lipoic acid, Vitamin B6 (250 mcg/day), and calcium for those with peripheral neuropathy. Wagner cautioned that each patient is different and supplemental needs will vary accordingly.

The three East Bay practitioners all emphasized that people should consult with their doctor about supplements or make sure their doctor is aware of what supplements and dosage they are taking.

For further information on Howard Armistead visit [www.ipath.org](http://www.ipath.org). ▼

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**24 GUYZ NOW PLANNING GROUP Tuesday, August 24, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Lounge, 2128 15th St.** Come hear about some of the projects we are working on and share some of your ideas for useful and fun events for men 26-40.

**26 RICE AND POTATOES Thursday, August 26, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Office, 2128 15th St.** Join the men of GAPA and the Stop AIDS Project for an interactive exploration of cross cultural dating and relationships between API and Caucasian men.

**31 FACILITATORS MEETING Tuesday, August 31, 6:30pm @ STOP AIDS Office, 2128 15th St.** All group leaders are encouraged to attend this monthly training and skills building evening. Dinner and social time at 6:30pm.

All events are free. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call 415.575.0155.

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## TG murders

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munity are welcome to come and remember Delicious and support her family. Participants are welcome to bring flowers, cards, and food for the reception. More information is available by calling CUAV at (415) 777-5500. Anyone with information about the crime should call Inspector Mike Mahoney at the Homicide Unit of the SFPD at (415) 553-1145.

In Fresno, Joel Robles, 29, described by friends as a man who liked to dress as a woman and perform in drag, was found stabbed multiple times in his apartment early on Sunday, August 15. He died a few hours later at the hospital. Police arrested suspect Estanislao Martinez, 23, who was found running naked from the scene. Community members have speculated that Martinez did not know Robles was biologically male and reacted violently when he found out. ▼



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## Down low messages muddled by labels

by Zak Szymanski

Some LGBT and same-gender loving individuals may be pleased to hear that the latest spokesman for the now-infamous "down low" phenomenon is "taking the heat off" gay and bisexual men for spreading HIV to heterosexuals.

The down low — or DL — lifestyle has been used in the media over the past few years to describe straight identified men who secretly have sex with other men. Usually this term refers to black men, along with an explanation that the available images of gay identity do not appeal to the masculine sensibilities or expectations of black culture. The down low has also been used to explain why so many black heterosexual women are contracting HIV; in frequently cited studies, a black woman was 23 times more likely to be infected with HIV than a white woman, and black women made up roughly 60 percent of new HIV cases in women, with heterosexual contact the leading cause of transmission.

J.L. King — a Chicago-area writer who penned the best-seller *On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men who Sleep with Men* — said he was prompted to write a book because of his own past life on the down low (King was caught in bed with



Author J.L. King being interviewed by CBS5's Barbara Rodgers.

a man by his ex-wife years ago), and because he wants to empower and protect heterosexual women.

In the Bay Area last week to promote his book and educate his community, King said he has set out to make his down low brothers take responsibility for themselves and their women in a way that doesn't force them to label themselves as anything other than straight. And he has earned his credibility in the down low dialogue, he said, specifically because he is not a gay man.

"A real down low man prefers women over men," said King during an interview with Barbara Rodgers for the CBS5 public affairs show *Bay Sunday*, which was taped Friday, August 13 in the station's San Francisco studio. "The gay community has been taking the blame, and the gay men I know are not a part of the problem."

The episode aired August 15. During the eight-minute segment, King was careful to differentiate DL guys not just from gays but from bisexuals who "could go either way."

King said he is also always careful to point out that this secret sexual behavior does not just occur in communities of color. The fact that he is a black man speaking about the practice in his community, however, often overshadows this disclaimer.

The biggest problem as King sees it is that down low men are not having safer sex with other men, he told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an interview after his taping.

Living on the "down low," he says, can be necessary in order to avoid a label that doesn't fit, as even alluding to being bisexual will get a black man labeled as "gay" or "faggot."

King can therefore accept the need to keep this sex on the down low, although he laments that the secret "doesn't give a woman all the information she needs to make a choice." And knowing that DL men will not tell their female partners about their behavior, King urges them to protect themselves and others.

"In the book, I tell them, 'Look, I know you are not going to tell your woman. I understand you can't talk about this in your church, your fraternity, your job. So what you have to do is protect yourself. If you're a bottom, make sure the man fucking you is wearing a condom. If you are a top, put

on a condom, if not for the man you are with, then for the woman that he is with. For his wife or his girlfriend, think about her."

### Signs and signals

King's book also includes signs, signals, and potential entrapments for women to watch for if they suspect their men are deceiving them. Going upon one's instinct, he said, is usually enough to know that something is not right. Wives and girlfriends, he said, may want to try to set their men up in order to catch them.

"I've had a lot of brothers thank me for my honesty. A lot of black women thank me for raising awareness. And a lot of gay and bisexual men are thankful that they are no longer being held responsible for spreading HIV to women," King told the *B.A.R.*

But not everyone is applauding King, who regardless of his approach remains a man of color who seemingly holds his brothers responsible for the spread of heterosexual AIDS.

Andre Robertson, prevention director for San Francisco's Black Coalition on AIDS, saw King speak last weekend at a discussion hosted by the Oakland chapter of 100 Black Women.

Robertson said that without any hard research data to back up the notion that DL guys are responsible for spreading AIDS to women, King is simply expressing an opinion, and one that can reinforce negative stereotypes.

"His message is that black men are victimizing these innocent black women, and he does nothing to counter that," said Robertson, who added that while he appreciates King's efforts to have a dialogue, the writer might end up actually hindering HIV prevention. "Vilifying and pathologizing black men sets prevention efforts back."

Robertson's sentiments have been echoed nationwide.

"There are many problems with the down low story, but the major problem is that it's based on the principle of vilifying the very people we need to reach. Demoralizing people who have already been stigmatized into silence will not end their silence," wrote Keith Boykin in an April column entitled, "The Down Low Returns," which can be found on his Web site at [www.keithboykin.com](http://www.keithboykin.com).

Boykin and others believe that

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SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

**What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**

**Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

**Common side effects.** Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

**Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

**How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?****General Information**

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.

- Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

**Capsules**

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

**Tablets**

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

**Can children take SUSTIVA?**

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

**Who should not take SUSTIVA?**

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

**What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?**

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

**Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you**

- have problems with your liver or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures** (for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital). Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

**What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?**

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

**MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA**

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Zolof® (sertraline)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

**General advice about SUSTIVA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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# LGBTI Health Summit coming up

by Liz Highleyman

The second Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Health Summit will take place August 25-29 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"This year's national LGBTI conference comes at a critical time as LGBTI communities face a series of attacks on basic civil liberties that have a direct impact upon our health and well-being," said organizing collective member David Acosta. "In this election year, LGBTI communities must meet, discuss, plan, strategize, and articulate our health needs to insure that our issues are not overlooked at the federal, state, and city levels."

The summit will bring together LGBTI health activists, health-

care providers, researchers, policymakers, community members, and their allies to explore innovative ways to improve the health and well-being of queer individuals and communities.

Emerging out of a series of Gay Men's Health Summits that began in 1999, the first LGBTI Health Summit took place in Boulder, Colorado, in August 2002. At that meeting, participants decided to hold inclusive summits every other year, alternating with community-specific gatherings.

Since the last summit, the queer community has celebrated some major victories, including the Supreme Court's sodomy law ruling and the implementation of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. At the same time, the community continues to face numerous health-related challenges, including restrictions on federal

funding for HIV and sexuality research, an epidemic of crystal methamphetamine use among gay men, and increased stigmatization of African American men on the "down-low."

"LGBTI persons are increasingly being shown to face health care disparities due to access and community risk factors," said summit co-convenor Jodi Sperber. "More research needs to be done, and funds are currently shrinking for work in this area."

The conference will kick off with pre-summit institutes on Wednesday, August 25, allowing a full day of focused discussion on topics including "Developing a New Generation of Leadership in the Gay Men's Health Movement," "LGBTI Health Policy and Advocacy," and "Transgender Health Strategies."

Thursday through Saturday

will feature plenary speakers each morning, followed by nearly 100 workshops and panel presentations addressing topics such as heart health for lesbians, the needs of rural LGBTI people, violence against transgender individuals, queer women's experiences of birth, gay men and monogamy, safer sex for HIV prevention workers, HIV vaccine and microbicide research, the sexual health of LGBTQ youth, and resistance to abstinence-only sex education.

"Health encompasses many

realms: physical, spiritual, emotional, social, economic, vocational, and many other aspects of how we heal each other and ourselves," the summit organizers state. "It also includes taking responsibility for ourselves, our loved ones, our community, and advocating for social parity."

The cost of the summit is \$175. For more information visit [www.healthsummit2004.org](http://www.healthsummit2004.org) or contact summit coordinator Thomas Lewis at (617) 482-9485 or [tlewis@jsi.com](mailto:tlewis@jsi.com).

## Down low

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people like King are profiting off the discrimination targeted at their community, the ages-old "threat of black-Dick" as a recent *Village Voice* article summarized. King counters that he is hardly the first person to talk about this, but he is one of the few from the actual community. He also puts money back into the community, he said, through a foundation he set up to further education and prevention.

### Disempowering?

Critics also say that blaming the down low also disempowers black women, painting them as perpetual victims with no control over their sexual choices, while neglecting that black males with HIV are also victims of the disease.

"Black gay and bisexual men have been living with HIV and dying of AIDS for almost a quarter of a century now," wrote Boykin. "The HIV infection rates for this group are the highest in the country. But the media and the black community have never treated this crisis with the same energy now devoted to 'the DL threat' to straight black women," wrote Boykin.

Boykin also takes issue with King's attempt to distance the down low from homosexuality.

"The term 'gay' is a 20th century construction, so no men identified as such before the 1900s. All men who engaged in homosexual behavior throughout history would be on the down low by today's standards," said Boykin, who went on to criticize King's recent appearance on the *Oprah* show where King said other down low guys recognized each other by eye contact.

"I don't know why that's news," said Boykin, "but where I come from they call it 'gaydar,' and it's so yesterday."

In today's postmodern queer discourse, it's easy to accept a person's right to self identify, and to acknowledge that having a variety of partners does not have to jeopardize one's sexual orientation.

But not unlike the early days of gay, observers have noted, a culture is being built around a secret lifestyle. Down low guys are developing their own language, and as is the case with anything taboo, they have also become fetishized, as there are anecdotal accounts of people "pretending" to be down low, in order to score. People like

Rayman Jackson are posting "An Open Letter to Black Women" online, a poem to affirm a man's commitment to women that includes verses like, "Sometimes, I long to hear another man's groan, just like I long to hear your groans. Late in the night, I want to hear him moaning deeply, just like I want to hear you moaning. I desire to feel his body tense up as my manhood enters him just like I desire to feel your body tense up as my manhood enters you." And there even seems to be an "old school" down low population that accusingly refers to people like King as "openly gay" for acknowledging his behavior at all.

"Nothing about him is DL...Damn, I know I ain't the only one who could have picked that guy out from a group of men as a dick-loving brother," said one Internet post from a man who saw an appearance by King.

Debate over language is interesting, and King acknowledges that if the gay and bisexual terminology didn't also seem to carry effeminate connotations that made them untouchable to women, guys on the down low might be different. He would like to see, for instance, a gay media watchdog group for people of color that insists upon masculine gay black characters on television. Until then, however, he said the best thing to do is address the immediate health concerns.

Yet regardless of how the person identifies, targeting DL men as the cause of HIV transmission plays off societal homophobia, say critics of the down low hype. The men may not call themselves gay, but the behavior is especially repugnant for being perceived as gay, and there would be no down low without the stigma attached to being gay.

"A lot of black men don't want the baggage of being labeled gay," said BCA's Robertson. "In my experience it's a process and a journey of fully understanding one's sexuality and humanity and being able to present that to the world, and men are in many different stages in that journey. The governor of New Jersey was a guy on the down low."

Robertson said that arguing over whether these men are indeed gay or bisexual "really distracts from what we're doing. What we try to do is focus on behavior and minimizing any harms or reducing risks that may come from that behavior."

King agrees.

"People hear about the 'down low' and they want to call these

men gay. They spend more time on that than the behavior. The labels are just causing mass confusion," said King, who added that because the women he needs to reach would not relate to a gay man, he is able to "bridge the gap" between the gay and straight worlds by putting a face on the down low. "I'm forcing African Americans to talk about sex. My mission is to bring awareness of the impact that behavior can have upon health." ▼

King's Web site is  
[www.livingdownlow.com](http://www.livingdownlow.com).



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## LGBTs

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our marriage."

Newsom for his part remained steadfast last week in his belief he had done the right thing by ordering the county clerk to wed same-sex couples. Saying he disagreed with the Supreme Court's ruling, Newsom nonetheless said the city would abide by it.

"Today, my heart is heavy. But I am not discouraged. In fact, I am more deeply resolved than ever before to continue our fight against injustice and discrimination. This ruling in no way minimizes the joy, the commitment and the courage of those 4,037 couples married here in San Francisco," said Newsom. "It merely strengthens our resolve to ensure that they and every gay American is afforded equality under the law."

In its ruling the court emphatically stated it was leaving the question of the constitutionality of the state's marriage laws to be determined by the cases now before lower courts. The justices repeatedly said their ruling dealt with the "narrow issue" of whether a public official has the right to ignore a law if he or she finds it is unconstitutional.

In issuing a writ of mandate, the justices wrote "we emphasize that the substantive question of the constitutional validity of California's statutory provisions limiting marriage to a union between a man and a woman is not before our court in this proceeding, and our decision in this case is not intended, and should not be interpreted, to reflect any view on that issue."

The court's decision was handed down six months to the day that San Francisco officials began marrying gay and lesbian couples in what became known as the "Winter of Love." On February 12 San Francisco couple John Lewis

and Stuart Gaffney, who have been together 17 years, wed inside City Hall sometime past noon.

Six months later they were back, dressed in matching tuxedos, talking to reporters about the sadness they felt and the resolve they have to fight for the day when their marriage will be fully recognized by the state and federal governments.

"It was incredible to see the love that filled City Hall. It was the happiest day of our lives. Today is a setback," said Lewis.

"I feel the court can't take away the love we share together," added Gaffney. "Our vow was to love, comfort, honor, and cherish each other for better or for worse. Today was for worse."

At a rally in Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro later that day, Berkeley couple Melissa and Libby Gardner-McBride held a sign saying "I'm outraged. My love is valid. My marriage should be." Together for eight years, the couple wed on February 13.

When they heard of the court's ruling, Melissa said, "I felt angry and sad."

"Disappointed," added Libby. Wearing a black armband made from a piece of lace, Melissa said it was a band of mourning she would not take off until gay marriage is legal.

While she acknowledged she and her wife did not have as many rights as they did the day before, Libby said the ruling "is not going to change the fact we got our names changed after we married legally."

Melissa added, "It is not going to change the fact our relationship is blessed in the eyes of God."

The women said they expected the court to rule against the mayor but had hoped the justices would not take up the issue of the validity of the marriage licenses.

"We expected it would happen. We knew the chance was it wouldn't hold in court, that it was one



Laura Espinoza, left, and her partner Dolores Caruthers react to the ruling outside the California Supreme Court.

step in a long battle," said Libby.

"We were still hopeful they wouldn't nullify them," said Melissa. "They could have left them in limbo," added Libby.

Jordan Lorence, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund who argued before the court that it should nullify the marriages, said he was surprised by its decision to do so.

"We weren't sure if they would do that or not. I think it was the right thing to do. If they allowed the marriage license question of validity to continue it would have encouraged other local officials to disobey the law," he told reporters outside the courthouse. "It was stronger than I thought it was going to be. I wasn't sure they needed to address that issue to decide the case. This is a major rebuke of Mayor Newsom by the state Supreme Court."

## Allies rally with couples

At the rally in the Castro Thursday night it was not just gay couples in the crowd, which eventually grew to about 500 people, protesting the court's ruling. Single people and straight allies also gathered in solidarity with the couples.

Agreeing that it is a "bump in the road," San Francisco resident Sam Thoron said he hopes his lesbian daughter will someday have the same right as her two straight brothers to marry.

"I feel very strongly she should be able to exercise that choice if she chooses," said Thoron, national president of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

In town for a soccer tournament as a referee with the International Gay and Lesbian Football Association, Didier J. Digneffe also took part in the rally and march to City Hall. A resident of Belgium, where he helped write federal legislation dealing with sexual orientation and hate crimes, he said if his country can legalize gay marriage, there is no reason the United States can't follow suit.

"I am sure if we could do it in Belgium, here I am sure you will,"

he said. "We just lost the battle not the war."

Standing next to his married friend who wore a white T-shirt with the word "null," Kenneth Gallardo, a single San Francisco resident, wore a white T-shirt reading "void." The back of their shirts read "singled recently courtesy of Ca. State Supreme Court."

Both men also had black armbands on, and Gallardo held a sign asking "Will I ever be equal?"

"Eventually I want to have the right to be married," said Gallardo, who added seeing his best friend's marriage nullified "breaks my heart."

When asked if that day would come in his lifetime, Gallardo responded, "Oh sure. I think there is enough support in the Senate and the states, given that the Federal Marriage Amendment wasn't passed. It put in people's minds that it is possible."

This November, if Democrat John Kerry is elected president, Gallardo said it would improve the chances of gay marriage becoming a reality. He said he doesn't want President Bush to be re-elected because "I don't want a Christian Supreme Court."

Julius Turman, co-chair of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, told the crowd he had just accepted his partner's marriage proposal and that the couple plans "a big splashy marriage next July." He also said in reading the court's 114-page ruling he found reason to be hopeful.

"As a lawyer I read the opinion and I did not see a reason to be disappointed," said Turman. "There is a glimmer of hope here and we are going to make that glimmer a reality."

Leaving the courthouse Thursday morning the Reverend Penny Nixon of the Metropolitan Community Church felt sad. By late afternoon she said she was "just mad."

"It is a good kind of mad. I am ready to fight," Nixon told the crowd. "Do we look like a group of invalidated people? I think not! Love is stronger than any court decision."

## Licenses locked in vault

For now city Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng has locked all 4,037 marriage licenses in a vault, whose location in City Hall she would not disclose. Someday she said they would be displayed as part of the city's historical record.

"They can't tell us to void the marriage licenses. I will protect all your marriage licenses with all my might," Teng said at the rally. "We will display them one day on our wall of record. You made history; you deserve that honor, you deserve that respect."

While the court ruled that the city must return any fees collected to those couples who request it, city officials said none of the couples to date has made such a request. With each ceremony costing between \$100 and \$140, Teng estimated the city had collected at least \$400,000 from the gay weddings.

The mayor suggested couples instead donate the money to a legal fund to help pay for the city's continuing efforts to make gay marriage legal. Teng said couples should contact her office if they wish to designate their fee to such a cause.

While conservative groups said the mayor owed the gay couples an apology, none of the couples interviewed last week said Newsom should feel sorry for his actions.

"We owe a huge amount of gratitude to the mayor. We never felt like equal human beings in this country as gay men. Now we know what it feels like to be equal," said Gaffney, who said the couple would donate their marriage license fee to the legal fund. "This has completely changed our lives. I realized how long I have been accepting second-class citizenship and we will never accept that again."

"If love means never saying you are sorry then we feel no need for an apology," added Lewis.

Melissa Gardner-McBride agreed Newsom doesn't owe her an apology. Instead, she said, "the Supreme Court should apologize."

Her wife Libby added, "They misguided people to think somehow my marriage is devaluing theirs."

"If their marriage is so shaky, they need to look at their marriage, not ours," said Melissa.

A group of six couples, led by Gaffney and Lewis, showed up at City Hall at noon on Friday, August 13 not only to thank the mayor, but also Teng and County Clerk Nancy Alfaro, who each received bouquets of flowers. The couples also delivered to Alfaro certificates of engagement, declaring their intention to one day return when their marriages would be valid.

Joe Caruso, the mayor's liaison to the gay and lesbian community, greeted them, saying, "You will still be married in your hearts."

Sacramento couple Mary Miller and Judith Franks, who married on February 26 after 16 years together, drove down to thank the San Francisco officials. Wiping away tears, the women said, "We had an opportunity to do this in Sacramento but it was San Francisco that opened its heart to us."

Franks said, "We are a family. We have a right like any other family to have the same 1,138 federal rights that comes with legal civil marriage."

Reading the opinion online, Miller said "When I saw the word void it was so hard to accept our marriage was void."

"They went too far. They didn't really need to void our marriages," said Franks.

To which Miller added, "Of course, we don't agree with their ruling on Gavin either." ▼

**William Owen, Jr., M.D.**  
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Kenneth Gallardo, left, and friends make their views known during the Castro rally.



## COMMUNITY NEWS



Molly McKay points to the heart artwork in City Hall that contains names of married couples. The group of same-sex couples and allies went to City Hall last Friday to thank officials for performing the marriages that were invalidated by the state Supreme Court.

## Lockyer

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that Leno's bill could be dead on arrival.

He suggested that the only way the state could legally marry gay couples would be if voters first overturned Proposition 22. In 2000 voters approved Proposition 22, defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Although the measure dealt with only the section of California family code that pertains to marriages performed outside the state, some have argued it also impacts marriages performed inside California. Lockyer said last week "the scope of Proposition 22 depends on how you read it."

Stating that he personally has stayed out of the dispute, Lockyer disclosed, "Lawyers in my office say they can't change that law until they go back to the ballot. That is not Mark's view and it is not the lawyers' for gay groups view."

It would also appear to be a reversal of the attorney general's own view. Arguing in his briefs in two cases, *Knight v. Schwarzenegger* and *Thomason v. Schwarzenegger*, Lockyer states that "if Proposition 22 was intended, as plaintiff claims, to forever bar the Legislature from enacting laws to protect same-sex couples and their families, this purpose would have been stated in the language of the initiative, or at the very least, in the voter pamphlet. It was not."

Equality California Executive Director Geoffrey Kors said, "It certainly makes no sense for Lockyer to have a 180 degree shift in his position."

Kors said his group has collected more than 10,000 postcards urging the governor to sign the bill and expects to have 50,000 by Valentine's Day next year. With February 14 falling on a Monday, gay rights activists will be in Sacramento to lobby in support of Leno's bill that day.

"The reality is we have a very strong possibility of passing it next year," said Kors.

The two cases are conservatives' attempts to stop California's sweeping domestic partnership law, AB205, from taking effect next year. They argue that the law, as well as an earlier DP law, AB25, violates Proposition 22. If Leno's marriage license bill should become law, conservatives would undoubtedly sue, claiming it is another violation of Proposition 22.

Jordan Lorence, a lawyer with the Alliance Defense Fund, predicted there would be another battle over gay marriage at the ballot box. Responding to reporters'

questions outside the courthouse last Thursday, Lorence said the courts are not going to have the last say in the matter.

"Judicial activism is not the measure to redefine marriage. Voters should decide," he said. "I think the courts should uphold the constitution. If they don't then

the voters will overturn it through the initiative process."

He also took issue with assertions by the gay community that one day same-sex couples will have the right to marry.

"People forget that the people define what's in the constitution.

next page ▶

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# State review calls for HIV names reporting

by Liz Highleyman

**A** California government review panel issued a report August 3 recommending that the state begin reporting new HIV cases by name.

The California Performance Review panel was charged with examining state government operations and suggesting measures to make service delivery more ef-

ficient and less costly. The CPR report recommended elimination of thousands of state jobs, outsourcing more services to private contractors, and creating a new Center for Public Health to oversee all health care planning.

In 2002, after a protracted debate, California instituted a system whereby doctors and laboratories report new HIV cases using unique coded alphanumeric identifiers rather than patient names.

California is one of eight states that rely on a code-based system.

Proponents of code-based reporting say the system preserves patient confidentiality, and worry that a name-based system would discourage HIV testing. Those who favor names reporting say it is a more accurate way of tracking the epidemic.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently does not accept code-based HIV

case data, which it considers less reliable than data reported by name. Thus, the CDC's national surveillance data does not include HIV cases in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, and other states with code-based reporting systems. In California, the Office of AIDS estimates that 30,000 HIV cases in the state are not being counted in the national statistics.

The CPR report concluded that the state's current code-based

system is "labor intensive, less accurate, and more complex than the name-based system." The panel also expressed concern that use of a code-based system could lead to the loss of some \$50 million in HIV/AIDS funding for the state as the federal government alters its allocation formula. Currently, federal funding is calculated based on the number of AIDS cases in an area, rather than the

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## McGreevey

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win the second time around in 2001.

McGreevey married in 1991 and had a daughter, but that marriage ended four years later in divorce. He married again in 2000 on the eve of his successful campaign for governor and he and his wife Dina have a young daughter.

### Golan Cipel

The "other man," who McGreevey did not identify in his public statements, is Golan Cipel. Members of the governor's staff have since confirmed that fact. Rumors of the affair had circulated for years in New Jersey.

Then-Mayor McGreevey met Cipel on a junket to Israel in 1999. The *Los Angeles Times* described Cipel at the time as "a slender, boyish man just over 30."

Six months later, after McGreevey again visited Israel, the younger man moved to a New Jersey apartment just a block from the mayor's residence. McGreevey even visited the place before the lease was signed.

McGreevey also arranged a

\$10,000 job for Cipel as an outreach coordinator to the Jewish community for the Democratic State Committee and lined up a \$30,000 a year marketing job for him with Charles Kushner, a top contributor to his campaigns. Kushner is under indictment for hiring a prostitute to try and blackmail a witness in a federal fraud investigation.

The plot thickened when McGreevey was sworn in as governor in January 2002. He created a new position, that of homeland security adviser, and named Cipel to fill it. The salary was \$80,000, increased six weeks later to \$110,000, the fifth highest in the administration, even while the state was facing a budget crisis.

McGreevey claimed that Cipel's service in the Israeli military, which is mandatory for all citizens, qualified him for the position. But the FBI and other agencies refused to share intelligence data with a foreign national who did not have a top security clearance.

Cipel kept the title only a few months when state legislators questioned his fitness and threatened to hold up confirmation of key appointees. He then became a special adviser to the governor

where his responsibilities were murky, but his salary remained the same. He went to the private sector in August 2002.

As the *New York Times* said in an August 13 editorial, "If McGreevey put someone in that critical post because of a personal relationship, that would be an outrage, regardless of his sexual orientation." It was perhaps the most damaging part of the scenario and one the McGreevey side tried to downplay.

### Crisis builds

A phone call from Cipel's lawyer on July 23 about a sexual harassment lawsuit would set off a round of discussions that ended in McGreevey's resignation 20 days later, according to the *New York Times*. The reporter was given extensive access to those who had participated in the process.

The staff weighed various options as they negotiated with the lawyer over a possible settlement, while McGreevey made sure to maintain a normal schedule. He even spoke to a gathering of gay and lesbian delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Boston without letting a hint of the bombshell slip out.

But the price of settling, some \$5 million according to what staffers told the *Times*, proved to be too high. Cipel's lawyer called

that suggestion a smear campaign against his client, and that in fact McGreevey's people "offered a sum of money to make my client go away."

At first McGreevey thought he would simply announce that he was not going to run for re-election. But then he decided to make a clean break and resign. The one catch was that he would delay the resignation until November 15 in order to forestall a special election and improve chances for the Democrats to retain control of the governor's office. He then called the news conference.

Cipel played the victim card in a statement read by his lawyer the next day. "While employed by one of the most powerful politicians in the country, New Jersey Governor McGreevey, I was the victim of a repeated sexual advances by him. Such conduct and McGreevey's behavior caused me such emotional distress and turmoil."

"When I finally dared to reject Governor McGreevey's advances, the retaliatory actions taken by him and members of his administration were nothing short of abuse and intimidation."

McGreevey maintains that the sexual activity was consensual. And while the twice- and still-married father of two now calls himself a homosexual (not bisex-

ual or confused), the never-married Cipel told an Israeli reporter that he is heterosexual.

Cipel's lawyer anticipates that a sexual harassment lawsuit will be filed shortly. New Jersey has a statute of limitations requiring that it be filed within two years of leaving employment. The deadline for Cipel is August 30.

### Reactions

"I think gayness is being used," Alan Rosenthal told the Associated Press. He is a professor of political science at Rutgers University, the leading state school in New Jersey. "It's not the root cause of his resignation. And it's certainly not the root cause of McGreevey's demise." He laid the resignation to an accumulation of scandals and ineptitudes.

"The fact that he's gay is the least of his problems," gay writer Eric Marcus told the *New York Times*. "And I'm not quite sure where his coming out fits into all of this. I don't think it reflects well on gay people."

"Here is a man who chose to hide who he was, came out under pressure because he had engaged in an adulterous affair, had given his romantic partner a government job. It's not exactly a moment I think anybody who has been involved in the gay rights movement can take pride in." ▼

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## Lockyer

◀ previous page

It is not inevitable that people will redefine the definition of marriage," he asserted. "The fact that Proposition 22 passed four years ago is a huge signal that voters will respond. It is better to let the people decide than judges."

While he has yet to do so, Lockyer said he could issue an opinion in the matter that would determine whether changing California's marriage laws could be done legislatively or through the ballot box. So far, Lockyer said, "No one has asked me to and I hope no one will."

At the rally on the steps of City Hall last Thursday night, Leno told the more than 500 people gathered on Polk Street that it was imperative to elect Democrats to the Legislature this year so that his bill would become law. As for having the courts approve gay marriage, Leno alluded to his bill, saying, "We don't have to ask permission. We can do it ourselves. We can and we will change the law."

### Bill is valid

In an interview after his speech, Leno was adamant that his bill was valid and that Proposition 22 should not impede his efforts to see the bill become law. He also attacked Lockyer for not joining with other top state officials, as well as 30 senators and Assembly members who are coauthors, in endorsing his bill.

"It amazes me that he would

not want to join the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the state controller, and the insurance commissioner in support of the Marriage License Non-discrimination Act," said Leno.

After Lockyer used Proposition 22 in his briefs to the state Supreme Court arguing against the gay marriages performed in San Francisco, Leno said both he and state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) asked Lockyer not to confuse the issue.

"Because he was including Proposition 22 in his arguments against the San Francisco marriages, we knew he was going to confuse people and use that section of state law against us," said Leno.

Bob Kearney, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, said his group "firmly believes Proposition 22 should not apply" and sees no reason why Leno should not reintroduce his legislation.

"We are fully prepared to challenge that should the attorney general make that an issue when the governor signs Mark Leno's bill next year," Kearney said.

Pointing out that the late state Senator Pete Knight, the major backer of Proposition 22, had tried and failed to amend the codes, which dealt with marriages performed inside the state, Kearney said there should be no question about Proposition 22's reach.

"A reasonable argument can be made that he knew what he was doing with Proposition 22. Having it apply to marriages done in state is something we would take

issue with," said Kearney.

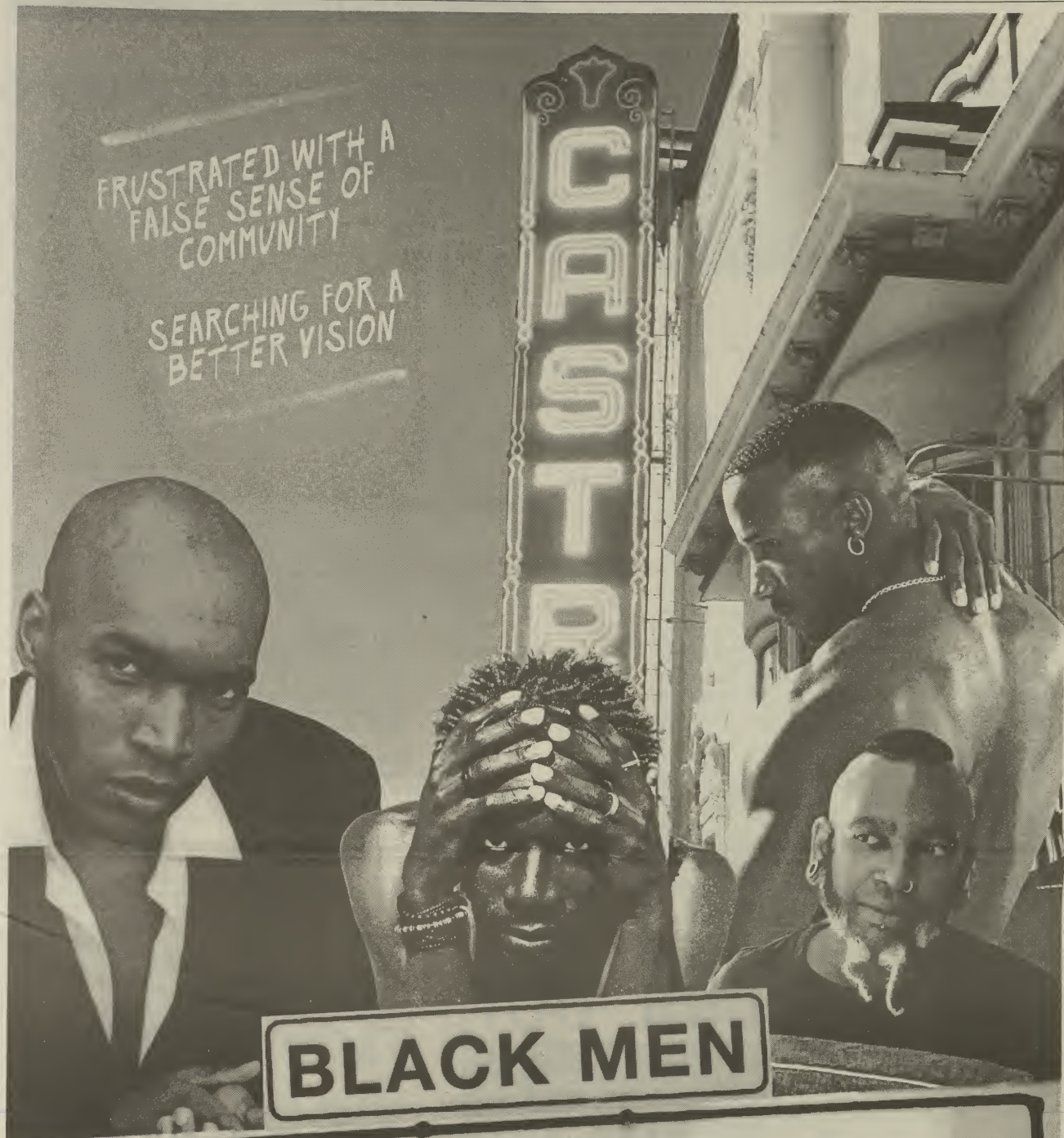
Leno insists the measure was designed to prevent California from being forced to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples performed in other states. The proposition did not change the criteria for issuance of marriage licenses within California, noted Leno. And he pointed out that his bill addresses California Family Code Sections 300, 301, and 302 not Section 308, which contains Proposition 22.

In fact, it was legislators in the 1970s who voted to change the family code and restrict marriage in California to a union between a man and a woman. Leno's bill would change the code to define marriage as a union between two people.

"I am afraid the attorney general has forgotten his own successfully argued brief which stated in the ballot argument at the time of Proposition 22 that it was not appropriate for the measure to be entitled 'Definition of Marriage' because marriage was already defined in Section 300 of the family code," said Leno. "They were going to the ballot with the clear statement this was to create Section 308, which was defining marriages out of state. [Lockyer] successfully argued that four years ago, so I don't know why he can't quite remember that."

A Sacramento judge is expected to hear the DP cases this fall and rule if the state's DP laws violate Proposition 22. A San Francisco judge is expected to take up six lawsuits over gay marriage this September. ▼





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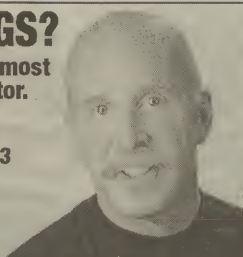
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# Understanding diabetes

by Aaron J. Cohen

It is estimated that 17 million Americans are directly affected by diabetes with almost 800,000 new cases diagnosed every year. It is also estimated that as many as one-third of these individuals may be unaware of their condition. You may be one of them.

Diabetes, also known as hyperglycemia, means that the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood is too high. You need some glucose in the blood for energy but when this amount is not properly controlled there may be serious complications. Glucose comes from the food you eat and is also produced in the liver and muscles. When glucose is produced or ingested, the organ known as the pancreas produces a hormone called insulin that allows this glucose to enter and be used by your cells. If your body does not produce enough insulin or if the insulin isn't working the way it should, the glucose remains in the blood.

The following are some common symptoms of diabetes. You may have some or none of them before finding out that you are diabetic.

- Very thirsty
- Frequent urination
- Very hungry or tired without any other cause
- Losing weight without trying

**To Your Health**

- Dry, itchy skin
- Slow healing of cuts and sores
- Tingling or numbness in the feet
- Blurry vision

**Two types**

There are two main types of diabetes: Type 1, which is also known as juvenile diabetes, and Type 2, also known as maturing onset or insulin resistant diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes frequently occurs at a young age and is usually a result of the body's immune system destroying its own cells that produce insulin. These individuals must inject themselves with insulin every day in order to survive.

Type 2 diabetes can occur at any age. In these individuals, either not enough insulin is produced and/or the liver cells are unable to properly use it. Being overweight can make insulin less responsive and can increase the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

**Insulin resistance**

Insulin resistance, the underlying cause of Type 2 diabetes, occurs when the body does not properly respond to the insulin it produces. Insulin resistance affects more than 60 million Americans, and one in four will go on to develop Type 2 diabetes. In addition, because of the genes you inherited from your parents, you may be more likely than others to develop Type 2 diabetes. Diabetes does run in families, although early detection and treatment of insulin resistance may keep it from ever developing. Careful food selection, regular exercise, and not smoking can go a long way in preventing insulin resistance from becoming diabetes. African Americans and Hispanic/Latino Americans are twice as likely than Caucasians to develop diabetes. These populations are also more likely to develop complications from diabetes. These complications include heart disease, blindness, impotence, kidney failure, and amputation of limbs.

**HIV and insulin resistance**

Although there is little evidence that HIV directly causes diabetes, the use of certain HIV medications, particularly protease inhibitors, has been associated with the development of insulin resistance. Coinfection with HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) has also been linked to insulin resistance and the development of Type 2 diabetes.

Among the different protease inhibitors, indinavir (Crixivan) has been most strongly associated with impaired glucose metabolism. Nelfinavir (Viracept) and amprenavir (Agenerase) were also associated with resistance to a lesser extent.

It's not exactly clear why this occurs but research published in the December 2000 issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases* suggests that protease inhibitors may cause reduced glucose absorption in certain cells, decreased production of insulin in the pancreas, and increased production of glucose in the liver.

In a previous column, I reported that protease inhibitors, as well as other HIV medications, may cause the development of lipodystrophy, which can occur as the accumulation or wasting of fat from different parts of the body. This loss of subcutaneous (under

the skin) fat has been associated with an increase in visceral (deep tissue) fat, deposited around insulin-sensitive tissue such as the liver and skeletal muscle. The result is increased insulin resistance.

**Diabetes testing**

If diabetes runs in your family or if you think you may have any symptoms, it's a good idea to be tested. There are three main types of tests for diabetes.

**Fasting glucose test** — Blood is drawn after fasting for eight hours with no food or beverages except for water. This is the most commonly performed test.

**Oral glucose tolerance test** — The individual fasts overnight and then drinks a sugar solution. Blood is then drawn every 30-60 minutes for two hours to see if blood glucose levels rise and fall at a normal rate.

**A1C test** — This test provides a bigger picture of one's condition by measuring how blood glucose levels are being controlled over the past two to three months. This test can be performed at your doctor's office or with a home testing kit.

It is recommended that individuals with Type 1 perform this test at least four times a year and those with Type 2 perform it at least twice a year. The test will indicate if treatment has been effective in controlling blood sugar and can predict the likelihood of developing serious complications such as blindness, heart disease, and kidney failure.

There is one other test. This test is called the insulin tolerance test. In this test, insulin is administered intravenously and then glucose is administered until normal glucose levels are attained. Unlike the first three tests, which measure high blood sugar levels, this test provides a more direct measure of insulin levels. However, because it is complex and expensive, this test is not generally performed as part of routine clinical care.

**Diabetes treatment**

For individuals with Type 2 or HIV-related diabetes, treatment may not involve any direct medication. A change to a diet low in fat, salt, and refined sugar and high in whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, along with regular exercise, may be enough to stabilize blood sugar levels. Others may simply need to switch their HIV medications to others that are less likely to raise blood sugar levels.

For those with Type 1 diabetes, it is necessary to administer insulin every day. Those with more advanced Type 2 diabetes may also have to inject insulin or they may be able to take certain oral medications.

**A note to readers**

This column is not intended to treat or diagnose any conditions. It is meant solely to provide information on topics of interest to the public. Please address any questions you might have regarding your own condition(s) or treatment(s) to your physician or other health care practitioner. ▼

Aaron J. Cohen holds a master's degree in public health in community health education and is a certified health education specialist. Previous health columns can be viewed in their entirety on the Web at [www.healthupdate.blogspot.com](http://www.healthupdate.blogspot.com). E-mail him at [HlthUpdt@aol.com](mailto:HlthUpdt@aol.com).

# A DAY INSIDE OUT.

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## OBITUARIES

## Bear street fair

◀ page 2

however, a clever appropriation of a recent city ordinance that regulates new street fairs. According to King, any new street fair that has alcohol for sale must sell it inside a "beer garden" surrounded by a fence. King followed the law but expanded it to the whole street itself, except for a 10 foot wide access corridor open to both 9th and 10th streets along the south side of Harrison Street. In this way, he designated the entire street fair as a "beer garden" where people could walk about freely.

King admitted that the fence divided the fun from the city a bit, but he also believed it offered certain advantages. "The fence was good for a lot of reasons," he explained. "It kept the bears from drinking and pissing and fucking on nearby private property. It created a clear emergency vehicle access corridor free of pedestrians.

And, it kept some of the noise off the surrounding streets."

Though the latter point was probably an exaggeration, King's defense of the fence was backed up by evidence of what did not happen. There were no police reports of any fighting or lasciviousness or drug use that came to King's attention. The only incident inside the fair happened on Saturday, when a bear bought a soda from a vending machine and quickly turned around, accidentally slamming a bag he was carrying into the large window of the main office of the Best Western, according to motel employees. Also, on the other side of the fence, a man described as homeless fell into a seizure but was quickly treated by medical personnel who easily reached him through the open corridor created by that same fence.

Whether Hairrison has a future has yet to be seen. Over 300 volunteers helped out during the four-day event. Several of them went

out of their way to say that they had a great time, and they want to see it happen again next year.

"This is not a one-man show," volunteer treasurer Vigna insisted in his answer to a question about King's leadership. At the same time, though, he admitted that he didn't know if Hairrison "could or would happen without Pete [King]. Who else has the experience and connections and enthusiasm to pull something like this off?"

King himself was more humble. "Sure, it could go on without me. I think that now that it's happened once, people will say, 'yeah, we know how to do this.'"

Vigna and King agree that regardless of who does it again, the first Hairrison Street Fair was a clear success, by any measure. To them, it's more a question of what shape future fairs will take: will they always strive to be new and fresh or must they eventually fall victim to their own success? That question will be answered in time, of course. ▼

## Sherman V. Clarke



August 10, 2004 of Voorhees. Beloved life partner of Mark J. Heddy. Godfather of Darah Bagby-Prosser. Son of the late Pearl and Samuel Clarke. Beloved friend of Kenda, Margaret, Karen Moy, Sal,

Derrick, Frank, Robert and Shirley Dvoretz and many others close to his heart.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Sherman may be made to AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey, 100 Essex Avenue, Suite 300 Bellmawr, NJ 08031 or Trinity Hospice, 150 9th Avenue, Rummecede, NJ 08078.

Arrangements were under the direction of Platt Memorial Chapels, Inc. Cherry Hill, NJ

## Charles E. Kopp

Charles E. Kopp, 45, of San Francisco, passed away unexpectedly on July 31, 2004. Charles was born in Wisconsin, and worked in Dallas, Texas, New York and Hong Kong before settling in San Francisco in 1993. Since 1995 Charles was the owner and proprietor of Purchasing Plus, a firm that acquired furniture, fixtures and equipment for the hotel industry and for luxury residential properties. A gourmet cook who loved to entertain from his compact kitchen, dog lover, and world traveler, Charles lived life fully. His sudden death has left his friends with a deep sense of loss.

A memorial service for Charles will be held at MCC, 150 Eureka Street, San Francisco, on Wednesday August 25th at 5 p.m. In lieu of flowers, Charles' requested donations be made to Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) at the above address.

## Health services

◀ page 3

Others are not so willing to get tested. A man approached by the team said, "If I found out right now I would kill myself" after being told about the HIV testing being offered. Later in the evening, as two men passed by, one seemed willing to learn about the services until his friend barked "No thanks" and kept on walking up the street. Though such encounters are still useful for evaluating the study, said Rose.

"We are writing down everything, even the people who do not take the tests," she explained.

Last week while in the Polk the team handed out 25 condom packs within the three hours it spent on Hemlock Alley. In SOMA, the team sets up the van near the Pilsom Gulch bookstore.

"It is hit or miss. Some nights it seems busy," said Jen Shockey, one of the study's three certified

HIV test counselors. "You can tell it is needed because there is a lot happening at night. It is a combination of homeless people and those out partying at night. Maybe they took a little speed."

Shockey said the team already has its regulars who stop by each week to talk, grab some condoms, or pick up water or a snack. One night she was given a rose while on another occasion she said the team had a group hug with another person. So far, she said the busiest location is the Polk while SOMA seems the slowest. The most popular services so far seem to be the needle exchange and condom packs.

"I think people are surprised we are out here so late," Shockey said of the typical reaction so far. "We don't push anything on anyone. Either they're 'Yeah I'll test tonight' or we hear 'I already took a test with Magnet' a lot. People in the Castro seem to get tested a lot."

Weihaur Lau, another of the study's HIV test counselors, said

people they have seen have brought their friends back the next week. At times, he said they have had to turn some people away.

"Some people are totally tweaking. If they are interested in testing and we feel they are not capable of being tested, we try to discourage them from being tested at that time," he said.

One man the team saw asked about getting into a drug rehabilitation program while another man who has lived on the streets for 15 years asked about getting into a housing program.

"He wanted to see his daughters and ex-wife," said Lau, who gave the man some referrals. "It makes me feel like my work is valuable."

Rose said she does not expect to have the results of the study until early 2005. Anyone interested in the late night services being offered can call the van any of the three nights it is out on the streets at 1-800-509-4704. ▼

## Our Man Friday

◀ page 10

would become a "disaster area." The president then quickly canceled the rest of a campaign trip to rush to the Sunshine State to "explore the damages and offer his help" - talk about political exploitation! Recent Florida political polls show Democrat John Kerry leading for the state's 27 electoral votes.

Gay activists in Reno want you to know that Grammy Award-winning artist Melissa Etheridge will appear this weekend - August 20 and 21 - at the City Pavilion in celebration of the eighth annual Reno Gay Pride (call 1-888-288-1833 for ticket info).

An initiative that would ban gay marriage in Oregon will be on the November ballot, the secretary of state's office ruled last week. Initiative 150 would amend the state constitution to say that only

marriage between one man and one woman is valid or legally recognized in the state. Also in Oregon, a lesbian couple filed a lawsuit against a Catholic school after officials there declined to admit their daughter. The women say the denial was because they're gay; they are seeking up to \$550,000 in damages on behalf of their daughter. A statement from the archdiocese says the church plans a "vigorous defense."

Reader Alan Beber reminds me to remind you that you must

be registered if you want to vote in November, and now is the time to do just that. If not already registered, San Franciscans can go to City Hall and get registered. In other communities, check for the registrar of voters in your county. The deadline to register is October 18, but don't wait until the last minute.

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip or note? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

SCOTT KOSHAREK  
MARCH 25, 1960 - AUGUST 01, 2004

BORN SHELTON SCOTT KOSHAREK TO THE LOVING PARENTS OF MR. AND MRS. RUDOLPH KOSHAREK. A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, SCOTT WAS AN AMBITIOUS ACHIEVER. AT THE AGE OF 12, HE BECAME A LEUTENANT COMMANDER WITH THE AIR FORCE JUNIOR CADETS. SCOTT PROUDLY LEAD HIS SQUAD TO NATIONAL COMPETITION NOT ONCE, BUT THREE TIMES TAKING 1ST PLACE. ALSO A CONSTANT TINKERER IN HIS FAMILY GARAGE, SCOTT DESIGNED, INVENTED AND LEARNED ALL HE COULD ABOUT ANYTHING WITH A PLUG. "PARIS IS PARIS," HE ALWAYS SAID. IN 1978 SCOTT GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND LANDED A JOB AS A FOLLOW-SPOT OPERATOR FOR A LOCAL DINNER THEATRE COMPANY. THIS WAS SOON FOLLOWED BY EMPLOYMENT WITH TRIMPO'S CASTLE IN ATLANTIC CITY AS A FOLLOW-SPOT OPERATOR, WHERE HE WORKED WITH FRANK SINATRA AND THE LIXES THERE. THESE MEMORIES HE CHERISHED.



IN THE EARLY 1980'S IT WAS TIME FOR THE LIGHT TO SHINE ON SCOTT. BECOMING INTERESTED IN THE NIGHTCLUB BUSINESS, NO DOUBT FROM HIS MANY TRIPS TO THE DISCO, HE REFERENCED MANY DJ'S, CLUB OWNERS, ETC. AND CAUGHT THE EYE OF MAJOR SOUND & LIGHTING COMPANIES. ALONG WITH HIS PARTNER, RICK, THE LIGHT SHINED AND THE DOORS OPENED WIDE. "SPECTRUM LIGHT AND SOUND" WAS BORN. TOGETHER THEY CREATED SOUND AND LIGHT SHOWS FOR NUMEROUS CLUBS. IN THE EARLY 1980'S, A NIGHT CLUB WAS OPENING IN SAN FRANCISCO ON THIRD AND TOWNSEND AND THEY WANTED ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES. SCOTT DELIVERED THE BAY AREA GROUND BREAKING LIGHT TECHNOLOGY AND A RICHARD LOCKE SOUND SYSTEM. SCOTT OPENED PROUDLY OF THE ACHIEVEMENT. AND, IF YOU EVER EXPERIENCED THIS SPACE FOLLOWING ITS OPENING, YOU KNOW WHY.

YEARS LATER, SCOTT AND HIS PARTNER CLOSED DOORS ON SPECTRUM INC., AS WELL AS THEIR NOT SO SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP. SCOTT WAS NOW SINGLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 14 YEARS. MANY YEARS EARLIER, SCOTT HAD DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS HIV POSITIVE. HOWEVER, SCOTT FORGED HIS LIFE FORWARD, DETERMINED TO PURSUE THE PASSION OF HIS TALENTS. IT CAME TIME FOR ANOTHER DOOR TO OPEN, THIS CREATING HIS OWN COMPANY, S.K. AUDIO AND ILLUMINATION. ALONE HE DESIGNED, IMPROVED AND MAINTAINED VARIOUS CLUBS' SYSTEMS, INCLUDING ASIASF, VSF AND 1015 FOLSOM. IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT I MET SCOTT. EVEN WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS HIV STATUS, I GAVE MY LOVE FREELY. I SOON DISCOVERED THE PASSION AND GENIUS OF SCOTT WAS MUCH MORE. HE WAS A PIPE ORGAN FREAK, A COMPUTER GEEK AND THE PROUD OWNER OF A REAL HONEST TO GOODNESS COTTON CANDY MACHINE!

GROWING TIRED OF THE CLUB BUSINESS, AND HIS HEALTH QUESTIONING HIM, SCOTT AND I MOVED TO THE EAST BAY FOR A MORE PEACEFUL LIFESTYLE. WITH NEW EMPLOYMENT AT MULTIVISION AS A SATELLITE SYSTEMS ENGINEER, SCOTT WAS RELAXED AND HAPPY. UNTIL SOON AFTER THE MOVE, HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH NON-HODGKINS LYMPHOMA. HE NEVER GAVE UP THE FIGHT, HOWEVER, IT WAS BROUGHT TO A PAINFUL END ON AUGUST 1, 2004. SCOTT PASSED IN THE ARMS OF HIS MOTHER, FREIDA FAYE CAMINA AND MYSELF, HIS 8-YEAR PARTNER, BRIAN WAYNE SHINKWILER.

MYSELF, HIS FAMILY AND Caring friends will never forget him. I am certain, SO NOW I RELEASE YOU SCOTT, TO SHINE IN THE SPOTLIGHT OF A BETTER PLACE. GOODBYE SWEETIE-PIE, I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

A MEMORIAL FOR SCOTT'S LIFE WILL BE HELD

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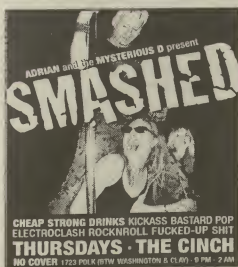
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# Heroics

## Carrying a torch for gay Olympians

by Jim Provenzano

Imagine yourself a new medalist, your heart racing, the crowd cheering, bowing slightly to receive your prize for the fastest run, the strongest lift, or the highest leap. With millions watching, do you wave, smile, and then unleash your rainbow flag?

If you want to become the next sponsored celebrity jock on a cereal box, probably not.

There are exceptions in Athens, seven of them in fact. Martina

Navratilova and Amelie Mauresmo in tennis; Guenter Seidel and Robert Dover in equestrian; Dutch swimmer Johan Kenkhuis; and Germans Judith Arndt (cycling) and Imke Duplitzer (women's fencing).

But more often, lesbian and gay Olympic athletes come out after winning those all-important medals, like swimmers Mark Tewksbury and Bruce Hayes, and diver Greg Louganis. David Pichler remains an exception, out while competing in 2000's Olympics.

Holly Metcalf, a rower for 22 years, won gold at the 1984 Olympics. A six-time national and Olympic team member, she now coaches.

So does California swimmer Dan Veatch, who competed in backstroke at 1988's Seoul Olympics, when, Veatch said, "I was 23, and had not dealt with my sexuality yet. And there was much greater pressure at the trials than at the Olympics. You have to finish first or second to represent the U.S. But once you're there, your goals change from actually competing, to making finals, to winning a medal."

Veatch admires other gay athletes (he won nine medals at the 1998 Gay Games V), but as for coming out at the Olympic level, he said, "I don't know what it would be like now. It was more of a non-issue at that point in my life. The media, and recent legislation, have come far in 20 years, so it's easier for athletes."

At the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, almost a dozen gay and lesbian competitors were out, but received minor attention limited mostly to the gay media. Convincing even the least famous of sports celebrities to "officially" come out has never been easy.

Even straight athletes who comment on rumors are sometimes thought to be gay. Those who pose shirtless or model underwear get possibly deserved speculation from gay fans. But the only practical way for progress to be made is by nurturing an environment of equality from the ground up.

At a recent panel at San Francisco's Washington High School, I spoke along with Bay Area gay and lesbian athletes and coaches about our experiences. This empowering gay day would be controversial anywhere else, but the school is an exception — it even has a view of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Chuck Loudon, a coach for an international school, told of his coming out as a track coach. It was his honesty and persistence that



College softball player Andrea Zimbardi was honored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights at the group's gala in April.

overcame any homophobia, and led to a tolerant environment. "I try to be the coach I never had," he said.

At universities, greater progress is being made, but even there, sometimes it takes a lawsuit. When Andrea Zimbardi, a former catcher for the University of Florida's varsity women's softball team, was released from the team shortly after alleging sexual orientation

discrimination, she

went to the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which helped her win an agreement that instills education, growth, and change. UF will provide training to combat homophobia in sports to its entire athletic department, including athletic directors, coaches, and staff.

Coordinator Helen Carroll, who coached basketball for decades, said, "I believe this top rated athletic program will be even better as a result of this agreement." UF was asked to restore Zimbardi's final year of NCAA eligibility and pay for her master's degree studies at the university.

"My goal from the very beginning has been to help ensure that other gay and lesbian athletes at UF feel welcome, accepted, and judged solely on their talent," said Zimbardi.

Since many Olympic athletes train in college programs, how long before such change affects their lives? Despite the gossipy news of Durex giving out about 50 condoms per athlete, the atmosphere in Athens, unlike ancient times, seems far less roman-

tic. An estimated 70,000 police and armed guards have been hired to protect the events. A bombing earlier this year in Athens, and a recent power failure, further showed the city's problems as hosts. The BBC reported that more than two dozen workers, most Armenian immigrants, died in the hasty rush to complete facilities.

The Olympic Games haven't been gay-friendly in, well, centuries.

Despite the beautiful Opening Ceremonies created by out gay choreographer Dimitris Papaioannou, the admittance of transsexual competitors, and the profound history of Greek culture, it's still going to be a marathon trip before more GLBT athletes can be out. In fact, at an Olympic party sponsored by Puma, the Jamaican team hosted reggae singer Buju Banton, whose song encourages the murder of gays.

Olympic contestants may become heroes to their specific communities. Most athletes make lifelong sacrifices and spend years training not just for their country, but also for their own glory, lucrative sponsorship deals, and an obsessive personal goal to be the best. Until gay and gay-friendly corporations offer the same benefits as Nike or Adidas, this may take a while.

Look closer to home for heroes, where future Olympians learn, and gay and lesbian coaches can teach them. ▼

Read more sports articles, including daily Olympic gossip, at [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

## Upcoming events

### Ice ice, baby

"One Voice: A Cabaret on Ice," will be held Saturday, August 28 at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Ice Center. The show combines live music by 10 singers, with 30 skaters performing. Skaters include Canada's three-time national champion Emanuel Sandhu, plus former NHK trophy winner, U.S. professional Angelo d'Agostino, and over two dozen other adult skaters, ranging from novices to accomplished professionals, many who medaled at Gay Games in Sydney.

Proceeds from the show benefit the Music Theater Collaborative, which brings music education to children in the Bay Area. There will be a stage with a piano literally on the ice, along with cabaret seating at tables on the ice, plus general admission seating in the stands.

General seating: \$20; on-ice seats \$50. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., performance begins promptly at 8. Yerba Buena Ice Center is located at 750 Folsom Street (between 3rd & 4th). Reserve tickets at [www.skateout.org](http://www.skateout.org). ▼

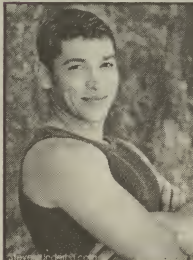
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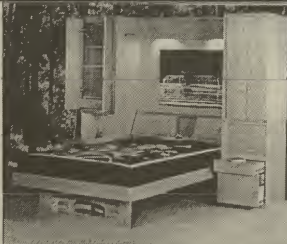
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## HIV reporting

◀ page 22

number of HIV infections. But plans are under way to shift to a formula that gives more weight to HIV cases.

Reactions to the panel's recommendations were mixed.

"The purpose of epidemiology is to track diseases and to find hotspots, and from that standpoint the current system is unworkable," Michael Weinstein of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation told the *Los Angeles Times*. "The unique identifier is complicated to report, and it's hard to determine whether a person is being counted twice."

Fred Dillon, policy director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that "the code-based system gives us what we want — better information about the epidemic — without driving people away from testing or raising fears around confidentiality."

"We're pleased with the current system as it's working and feel it can meet the government's stan-

dards," Dillon continued, adding that the state "should be spending its time advocating with the federal government to find out what the CDC wants and how we can provide it."

While the CDC prefers name-based data, it has stated that any type of data that meets its criteria is acceptable. However, critics contend that the agency has been slow to clarify exactly what those criteria are, or to provide technical assistance to help states comply.

"The CDC has been dragging its heels," said Dillon.

In May, legislators from code-reporting states — including California Senators Dianne Feinstein (D) and Barbara Boxer (D), and San Francisco Representative Nancy Pelosi (D) — sent a letter to CDC director Dr. Julie Gerberding charging that the agency "has failed to develop national performance and evaluative standards for completeness and accuracy," and calling on the CDC to accept HIV data from all states into the national HIV/AIDS reporting database.

"CDC's refusal to accept and utilize code-based data presents

an inaccurate picture of the nation's epidemic," the letter stated. "By using AIDS cases as the nation's primary measure of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and HIV cases from a limited number of name-based states as a secondary measure, we are not only understating the number of people living with the disease, we are using a skewed national estimate of the epidemic to allocate scarce resources."

While the Ryan White CARE Act directs the government to explore funding based on HIV infections instead of, or in addition to, AIDS cases, Dillon said that "no one knows when the federal government will decide about HIV-based allocation." The current language may change when the CARE Act comes up for reauthorization next year.

Because the CPR's HIV reporting recommendation would impact the state's HIV/AIDS confidentiality laws, its implementation would require legislative approval. No such legislation is currently pending, Dillon told the *B.A.R.*, "but there will likely be a bill come January." ▼



# CLASSIFIEDS

## BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE POSTED FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS/CLERK OF THE BOARD:

1367 Special Assistant VIII - Legislative Analyst  
Salary Range: \$1,980-\$2,407 Biweekly; \$51,480-\$62,582 Annual\*

\*The Legislative Analyst shall receive a seven percent (7%) premium  
Appointment Type: Permanent Exempt, Filing Deadline: September 3, 2004

1371 Special Assistant XII - Senior Legislative Analyst  
Salary Range: \$2,666-\$3,241 Biweekly; \$69,316-\$84,266 Annual\*

\*The Senior Legislative Analyst shall receive a seven percent (7%) premium  
Appointment Type: Permanent Exempt, Filing Deadline: September 3, 2004

1454 Executive Secretary III  
Salary Range: \$2,140-\$2,602 Biweekly; \$55,640-\$67,652 Annual  
Appointment Type: Permanent Exempt, Filing Deadline: September 3, 2004

NEW PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES  
Central Subway Public Art Projects  
ART OPPORTUNITIES

Artists will be invited to contribute to the design of the following aspects of the station architecture to create artworks for: above-ground station pedestrian entries, transit plaza adjacent to station entry, ceiling design and overall interior configuration of stations, sculptural lighting for station interior, paving and wall treatments, special light installations in underground passages, artist-designed furniture for plazas and station interior, treatment of large vent shafts, portal entries for Light Rail Vehicles within streetscape, large digital display screens in certain stations, and other opportunities, yet to be identified.

ARTWORK BUDGET  
The total budget is anticipated to be several million dollars allocated for multiple public art works at four underground subway stations, one surface level platform, and portals.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to practicing, professional artists residing in the United States.  
DEADLINE: October 1, 2004

For a prospectus visit: [www.sfgov.org/sfac/pubart](http://www.sfgov.org/sfac/pubart)  
Or send a SASE to:  
Central Subway Public Art Projects, San Francisco Arts Commission

25 Van Ness Ave., Ste. 240, San Francisco, CA 94102  
Artists' Information Meeting (for Project Information and How to Apply):  
Tuesday, September 14, 2004 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the San Francisco Arts Commission offices,

25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 20  
SF ENVIRONMENT DEPT NEIGHBORHOOD RECYCLING CAMPAIGN  
Grants to 100K for outreach services, SF Environment Dept neighborhood recycling campaign.

Distribute literature to up to 25K households twice in year phone-bank in English, Spanish, Chinese up to 15K households over same period. Can apply for one or both. Deadline: August 20, 2004. Proof of non-profit status required. For more, go to "grant" section at [stevensonment.com](http://stevensonment.com), or call 415-355-3700.

WHAT IS SAN FRANCISCO CITY GOVERNMENT BUYING?  
Check the City's bid database on the Internet: <http://sunset.ci.ca.us/pbids.nsf> (no "www").

For more information about the database, call (415) 554-6248.  
For general information about selling your product or service to the City, go to the Office of Contract Administration, Purchasing Division's website at <http://www.sfgov.org/oca/purchasing>. Click on "General Business Information," under Introduction to the Division. For more information, call (415) 554-6743.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC  
City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541465

In the matter of the application of David Adam Lange for change of name. The application of David Adam Lange for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that David Adam Lange has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Adam Galang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the sixteenth day of September at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**JULY 29 AUG. 5, 12, 19 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0277758-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Songs For All Seasons, 2490 33rd Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Hilda C. Schedler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/20/04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278121-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cosmopolitan Apts. Consultants, 65 Midwest Way, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Shawn Warren Frohmuth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-02-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0277507-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 2 Boys Holding Hands, 2261 Market St. #506, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James Chan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-09-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-09-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0277742-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Best of San Francisco Publishing & Printing, 41 Sutter St. #1761, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michelle Maria Rockford-Boley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11-09-98. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-20-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278031-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Polk & Clay Liquor, 1700 Polk St., San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Han S. Wong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-29-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-29-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278014-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metropolitan Gardens, 1100 26th St. C-14, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James A. Maltberger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1-04-86. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-29-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0277933-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mi Lindo Yucatan #2, 4042 24th St., San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jorge Gongora. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-26-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0277741-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Best of San Francisco Guide/Best of San Francisco, 41 Sutter St. #1761, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michelle Maria Rockford-Boley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-08-1993. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-20-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS # 288

Dear Potential Applicant:

The San Francisco Department of Human Services (DHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from not-for-profit organizations interested in contracting to implement a resource center in the Tenderloin Community to serve as an access point to shelter, housing and treatment services and to track services provided to clients in San Francisco.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SF/DHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Tuesday, August 10, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFP packets will also be available on the Internet at <http://www.sfgov.org/oca/purchasing.htm> click "BIDS and Contracts Database", then the "Consultants and Professional Services" link and look for RFP #288. For further information, call Esperanza Zapien at (415) 557-5657. Due date for responses is September 10, 2004 at 3:00 PM. NO EXCEPTIONS

08/19/04

CNS- 712167#

BAY AREA REPORTER

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0277935-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mi Lindo Yucatan #1, 401 Valencia St., San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Benny Huerta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-26-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0274983-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Mi Linda Yucatan Located at: 401 Valencia St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business was conducted by an individual signed Benny Huerta. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 04-01-04.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0268612-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Designer Brand Outlet. Located at: 2141 Mission St. #C San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business was conducted by an individual signed Freshia Rahimi. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 07-23-03.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04-541482

In the matter of the application of Eileen Leone Heyn for change of name. The application of Eileen Leone Heyn for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Eileen Leone Heyn has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Amelia Maria Jody Carroll. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the Ninth day of October 5 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278118-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kuber Trading Co, 1 Lincoln Court, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Yohesh Himansu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-02-04.  
**AUG. 12, 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 2004**

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0277729-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sysmedia/Sysmedia Consultants/Sysmedia Technology Consultants, 3871 20th St., San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Warren L. Page. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-19-04.  
**AUG. 12, 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278233-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Empire Health Club, 428 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Chong Son Atamian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-30-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-05-04.  
**AUG. 12, 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 2004**

#### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0245982-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Empire Health Club Located at: 428 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business was conducted by an individual signed Masaru Mochida. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 1-12-01.  
**AUG. 12, 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 2004**

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Aramark Sports & Entertainment Services, Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 555 California St. San Francisco, Ca. 94104. Type of License applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE

#### 68 - PORTABLE BAR AUGUST 12, 2004

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Three Dollar Bill Cafe LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1800 Market St. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. Type of License applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER & WINE EATING PLACE  
**AUGUST 12, 19, 26 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278139-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Felipe Rodriguez Real Estate Enhancement, 21 Douglas Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Felipe M. Rodriguez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-03-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-03-04.  
**AUG. 12, 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0277602-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vivid Image, Chet Johnson, 340 Bryant Street, #409 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James Fenn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07-15-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-15-04.  
**AUG. 12, 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278417-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: MV Hardwood Floors, 537 Jones Street, #2972 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Diana N. Vuong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-11-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-11-04.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278458-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ralph's Cleaning Service, 1510 Eddy Street, #1107 San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Zhou Yu Di. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-12-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-13-04.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278521-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Phil Diers - Sculptor, 1362 Hayes Street San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Phillip J. Dier. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-01-91. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-16-04.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278472-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ScienceGraphics, 743 Polk Street #407 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Kyrk. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-13-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-13-04.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278381-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Embry Designs, 801 Red Leaf Court San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael Embry. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-11-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-11-04.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278448-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Golden State Psychological Health Center, 100 North Point Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133-1550. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Alexander D. Bingham. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-12-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-12-04.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278228-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cheer San Francisco, 584 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Darwin Choy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-05-04.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278404-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: P & J Trading Company, 8 Morningside Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Phillip Cheung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-11-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-11-04.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541503

In the matter of the application of Carl Wilford Labante for change of name. The application of Carl Wilford Labante for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Carl Wilford Labante has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carl Baughman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the fourteenth day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541505

In the matter of the application of Luis Roberto Seckman Leber for change of name. The application of Luis Roberto Seckman Leber for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Luis Roberto Seckman Leber has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Vincent Luis Seckman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the twelfth day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541511

In the matter of the application of Vida Lynne Caputo for change of name. The application of Vida Lynne Caputo for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Vida Lynne Caputo has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Vida Lynne Morgan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day, 2004 of October at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 2004**



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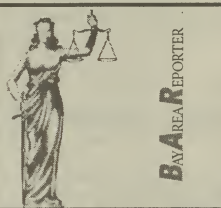
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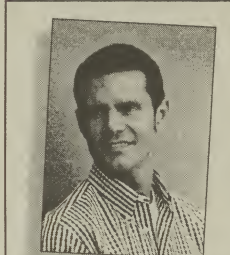
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Once I was a humble lawn ornament. Then I got nabbed.



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Happens to the best of us. (Not me, of course.)



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(sighhhh)

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**'She Hate Me,' but do we hate it?**  
Spike Lee's lesbian consultant Tristan  
Taormino does the film's damage control.  
page 37

**The art of color**  
William Eggleston, color  
photography's pioneer.  
page 44



**Garden State party**  
Marga Gomez tells all in  
Theatre Rhinoceros show.  
page 35



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 34 • 19 August 2004

## The velocity of Thomas Jane

Giving good spread for biopic 'Stander'

by Brandon Judell

It's afternoon when the unshaven Thomas Jane moseys into the Regency Hotel coffeeshop in Manhattan, sidles himself into a seat, spreads his legs, and seems ready to nap. He's that relaxed. Just imagine a blond James Dean about to face yet another dreary press interview over yet another film, and you've captured the moment.

When I note to Jane that the more tabloids and gossip columns he's in, the more roles he'll get, he nods. Does he consider that a Faustian deal, selling his soul for fame and a career?

"Don't think it's a matter of selling my soul *per se*," Thomas notes, removing his sunglasses. "That machine is going to take care of itself. I don't have to go out of my way to contribute or detract from that machine. I think that any time involved in my life spent devoted to it is a waste of time. Whether I'm defending myself from or trying to feed myself to that machine for some bizarre egotistical reason, they're both hapless pursuits. A complete waste of my energy and my time. That machine will take care of itself and do its thing with or without me for the rest of time. I'm here very briefly. Don't really have the time to spend thinking about it in any way."

Yes, the man is so selfless that throughout our chat, he starts sentences with a verb, saving the "I" pronouns for his more self-involved peers.

Jane, by the way, is promoting his latest film *Stander*, a terrific biopic of the South African legend Andre Stander. Stander was a police officer who, after finding himself shooting an innocent black man at a non-violent protest, becomes a bankrobber to protest his anger at a society that placed him in such a position in the first place. Stander was so good at his new career that after 40 robberies, he was only caught once, and not for long.

Thankfully, Stander, at least according to this film, spent much of his spare time buck-naked — either in bed, making love, sunning on beaches, or dancing at night with just his headphones on.

Being unclothed, partially or fully, has never been a problem for Jane. Just ask *Stander*'s director Bronwen Hughes. She shared: "Thomas is so at home in his skin that I actually had to ask him to give us a naked-dancing take not facing the camera, please. So he was fine about it. He's totally a fully integrated, competent person in front of the camera, so there was no discussion of that. In fact, the only time I think it's wacky is if it's a sex scene, and then you're trying to chart whether it should be engorging or not engorging. Then it gets more tricky, but ours were very relaxed scenes."

### Big muscle

Some more strident scenes in which Jane also showed some flesh were in the recent actioner, *The Punisher*, for which he  
page 38 ►



Scott Weiner

## Tragic ending comes too soon Andre Noble, star of 'Sugar,' dies at 25

by David Lamble

The first image in a bittersweet new coming-of-age film, *Sugar*, is of an angelic-looking young man sucking on a piece of red licorice. Cliff is about to turn 18 and get his first taste of all that adult life promises. It's especially ironic that most film fans who see *Sugar* will do so after hearing news of the accidental death of the vibrant young actor who plays Cliff, the 25-year-old Andre Noble.

Noble was hiking with friends on July 30 when he encountered a poisonous plant on Silver Fox Island off his native Newfoundland. Noble reported feeling ill during supper at his aunt's house. The young actor died about an hour later, before he could reach a hospital. A local medical examiner confirmed that Noble's death was caused by contact with Monkshood, a poisonous wild plant. Its toxins have been used in warfare, and even a small amount can cause respiratory failure and heart seizure. Jack Strong, a local horticulturist, told a Canadian news service that the plant is quite insidious in its appearance. "Cases of poisoning have

been reported when the leaves were mistaken for wild parsley, or the roots were mistaken for horseradish."

Andre Noble had returned to his boyhood home after a triumphant appearance at the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, where *Sugar* was received with applause and some critical accolades. Noble had debuted in a supporting role in another edgy hustler drama, *Twist*.

In a interview with Bert Archer published June 24 in Toronto's entertainment paper *The Eye*, Noble described what he liked about playing this dark side of a young man's psyche. "Playing hustlers lets you get at the vulnerable side of what is still a sexy man. You don't get that in girl-guy relationships, even if the guy is very sensitive. Because, shitty luck, whatever, women are always perceived as more vulnerable. With movies like this, the men are sort of victims of each other, which kind of puts them on a level playing field, and I think that's very attractive."

In my review of *Sugar*, I noted how Noble became the audience's representative in the film. "This deliciously tawdry tale from the hard streets of Toronto  
page 39 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# Boy crazy in the promised land

The governor, the gold, and the Golan in a very gay week

by Roberto Friedman

What an incredibly gay and yet not gay week it was! Imagine being one of the 4,000+ same-sex couples who had their marriage licenses unceremoniously revoked by the mean old California Supreme Court — perhaps you already are. Next, imagine being one of newly out New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey's stable of coifed and combed boytoys — perhaps you already are. Then imagine being cock of the coop, Israeli press agent-turned-Garden State gold-digger Golan Cipel! Perhaps you already are.

But one thing Out There can't imagine is being recently outed gay Capitol Hiller Lynden C. Armstrong, aide to GOP Senator Pete V. Domenici, advocate for a Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. In other words, Armstrong is actively working for the elimination of his own civil rights. How does he do it?

Re his boss Domenici, Armstrong told *The New York Times*, "I know the senator supports me. I also know that his job is to represent the constituents in New Mexico, and the polling in the state shows that the constituents there are overwhelmingly in support of the Federal Marriage Amendment." Can you say, "Sentence 1 does not = Sentence 2?"

Yep, the weekly gay news is all too gay nerve-wracking. Fortunately for Out There, we were able to soothe our frazzled gay nerve-endings by finding the Hot Olympians website, which every day picks a humpy new male athlete in the Games and puts up beautiful pics to bolster the choice. Last week's photospread of brother-act solo and synchronized diving champions Justin and Troy Dumois drove us Olympic-



OT's nod for hot Olympians.

sized cra-azy. hotolympians.com

## Crafts corner

Perhaps not since *Puppetry of the Penis* have we been as titillated/repulsed by the prospect of a mass-entertainment artifact as by this fall's release of *Very Naughty Origami: The Art of Turning Pure Paper into XXX Conversation Pieces* by Nick Robinson (Rizzoli). Paper creations include "Schwanstucker," described as "a surprisingly accurate and anatomically correct recreation of man's favorite appendage, fully movable with just a gentle squeeze!"

*Very Naughty Origami* also gives directions on how to create miniature human figures you can arrange into scintillating group-sex scenarios such as "The Chain Gang," "The Human Pyramid" and "The Split-Roast." There's also "a handy visual helper" called, "Where's the Magic Bean?" meant to "guide any man to that land of the unknown called the clitoris."



Man's favorite Schwanstucker

More origami than we needed to know!

## Fully booked

"I'm really nervous that no one will be there," buxom "author" Pamela Anderson confessed to *USA Today* in the limo on the way to her first signing of her novelette *Star*. "Should I open the sunroof and take my top off?"

Instant Message to Pam: Keep your shirt on. The fix is in. *The NYT's Boldface Names* column has already declared, "The chest also rises." BAR contributor Jim Piechota's review runs in these pages. OT hasn't taken time out of our busy schedule to read *Star*, though we have admired its jacket/centerfold and perused its p.r., hilarious in its own right. Consider [italics OT's]:

"Fans reported driving 10 hours to attend her New York book signings," claims publicity!

P.R. can reveal: "An amazing mix of men and women became giddy and weak-kneed while she signed their books with a smile!" "One store ran out of books," amazing but true!

"During a signing, Pamela met soldiers who suggested she send books to Iraq, which she's doing this week!" Support the troops!



Laurie puts the 'A' in NASA

## O Superwoman

Another Anderson entirely, performance artist Laurie, has scored an artist-in-residency with NASA. *The Washington Post* reported. The space agency has granted her a \$20,000 commission to produce a work entirely of her own choosing. For research, Anderson has already been to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, and the NASA Ames Research Center and Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in CA.

"Frankly, I find living in American culture at the moment really problematic," she told the *Post*. "But then when I think of NASA, it's one thing that feels future-oriented in a way that's inspiring." Anderson joins the ranks of 250 artists who have contributed to NASA, including well-known rocketeers Robert Rauschenberg and Norman Rockwell.

## Swedish meatballs

In celebration of the Castro Theatre's upcoming showing of the classic Ingmar Bergman film *Autumn Sonata*, starring Ingrid Bergman and Liv Ullmann (8/24), BAR contributor Tavo Amador surveys Ingrid B's career in this issue. Here's a quotable quote from the great Swedish film star. When asked what the secret to a happy life was, Bergman responded, "Good health and a poor memory."

Also, a grace note: Model/actress Isabella Rossellini, Ingrid's talented daughter, once told an interviewer that her mother would get frustrated when people complimented her looks, because she felt she had no control over them. She finally came up with a response. When someone would say, "You are so beautiful," Bergman would smile and answer, "Yes, isn't it lucky?" Then she'd change the subject.

## Hip to it

We keep meaning to return to our summer-long investigation into the varieties of male beauty, but we keep getting distracted by whatnot like, oh, the ongoing struggle for civil rights. But this week we take a moment to celebrate the eternal loveliness of the hippie boy. We even rejoice in the vision of certain old hippies, ex-hippies and neo-hippies.



Hippies groove on a mellow trip

Groove on this: the new coffee-table book *Hippie* by Barry Miles (Sterling, \$24.95) offers plenty of illustrations of the basic tie-dyed type. As hippie-modulation Yippee Jerry Rubin put it at the Be-In in '60s SF, "Our smiles are our political banners, and our nakedness is our picket sign!" Free, natural, earth-loving, nonviolent hippie daddy-o, we dig your memory.

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## THEATRE

# Hot New Jersey bisexual babe

Marga Gomez dishes 'Intimate Details' at Theatre Rhinoceros

by Richard Dodds

Poor New Jersey, my home state and an eternal punchline for urbanites. And now it's a gay joke as well. The governor is getting the headlines, but Marga Gomez is getting the laughs.

In *Intimate Details*, her one-woman show at Theatre Rhino, Gomez recounts her hilariously horrible experiences as emcee of New Jersey Pride in 2000. She was looking forward to the gig, she tells the audience, because she couldn't get laid in New York. "I thought in New Jersey it would be easier. I could impress a date just by watching television."

She gets her wish, but anyone who has followed Gomez's work since her standup days at Valencia Rose and Josie's Cabaret knows that her romances usually end up in heartbreak that then becomes grist for her wryly self-deprecating comedy.

Arriving on a stage festooned with rainbow flags, Gomez begins the 90-minute show with a quick recap of her career as a professional Pride emcee. In Buffalo, for example, she bombed. "They didn't think mullets were funny. They didn't even know they had mullets."

But New Jersey Pride is the main event as far as *Intimate Details* is concerned. No matter that it's not very crowded, or that the headliner is a washed-up disco star, or that the audience is filled with children. "Thanks for killing the sexual energy," she mutters at the kids crowding the stage.

None of that matters, because it is there that she meets Shona, a webpage designer and former stripper with a 3-year-old daughter and an estranged husband. For Marga, Shona is the Venus de Milo (a reference that harkens back to an early lesbian experience that Gomez graphically reenacts). After shacking up with Shona in a Jersey 'burb, her Venus turns out

to be a nightmare. Yet she's not unlike some other women Gomez has dated. "Sociopathic bisexual medicated chicks are so hot," she explains.

*Intimate Details*, exuberantly directed by David Schweizer, is a *tour de force* in the true meaning of the term. Gomez switches in and out of multiple characters, is often sprinting across the stage, and takes us into some situations that might be shocking if they weren't so funny. Not all of the moments work, but the down-times are brief, and Gomez possesses such an infectious personality that they easily pass.

The show had its premiere in New York last year, but a New Jersey premiere is still to come. Now that would be fun to watch — from a secure location. ▼

*Intimate Details* will run at Theatre Rhino through Sept. 5. Tickets are \$20-\$28. Call 861-5079 or go to [therhino.org](http://therhino.org).



Live from New York: Gomez (with Tabasco) recounts her Jersey Pride.

Steve Savage

## Big heart city

Budding queen 'Scot' at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

In *Breakfast with Scot*, Sam and Ed are a gay couple who would probably flinch at being labeled "queer." They're out, and they're proud to be seen as normal. But when they are asked to raise a decidedly queer 11-year-old boy, their suddenly invoked parenting skills are put to the test.

At the behest of New Conservatory Theatre Center, author Michael Downing has adapted his 1999 novel into a play in which the gay characters exist without the overt issues that have fueled much of the gay-centered drama of the past: AIDS, discrimination, homophobia, self-loathing, and the rest. Sam and Ed are enjoying what has been hard-won, but they discover what Loretta Lynn once wisely said: "If you're still breathing, you've still got problems."

The novel and the play avoid the high farce that could betake a story of a "budding queen," as the press material describes Scot, who has been thrust upon a buttoned-down couple. Scot is definitely a quirky character, and Sam Garber provides a bravely quirky performance. Speaking in an oddly modulated voice (think Sophie Tucker on helium), Garber comfortably wears the makeup and accessories of his feminine fixation, and holds his own with the adult actors on stage.

Whether by the author's design or the director Ed Decker's choice, one of those adult characters has been altered from the book enough to disturb an important balance. While Scott Cox plays Sam without much flourish, Javier Galito-Cava plays Ed as an arm-flapping, eye-rolling queen. With his lines filtered through a rich Spanish accent, Galito-Cava certainly adds a comedic element, and draws many laughs, but the pivotal contrast with Scot is often lost.

Stephanie Temple plays Scot's late mother in a series of uneasy fantasy conversations with Scot,



Javier Galito-Cava (Ed) admonishes Sam Garber (Scot) in *Breakfast...*

which she must unfortunately deliver from the inside of what looks like a TV screen hung on a wall. She also plays a hard-drinking Southern gal (with shades of Temple's Mae West persona in *Dirty Blonde*) who arrives with Sam's unreliable brother (and former lover of Scot's mother), who now wants custody. Elias Escobedo plays brother Billy with an ominous hint of straight brutality.

In the quest for a theatrical realization of the story, some of the low-key charms of the book have been, perhaps inevitably, lost. But it is still an ingratiating and original story — even if its outcome is never in doubt — and its big heart remains intact. ▼

*Breakfast with Scot* will run at New Conservatory Theatre

Center through Sept. 12. Tickets are \$26-\$32. Call 861-8972 or go to [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org).

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# The princess and the professional

TheatreWorks to give world-premiere of musical in Mountain View

by Richard Dodds

Songwriter Andrew Lipka assumed that a bolt of lightning was required before he took on any new theatrical project. He had been properly zapped when he began *John & Jen* and *The Wild Party*, but a thunderbolt didn't present itself when he was paged to write the music for *A Little Princess*.

First off, with *The Wild Party* in 2000, Lipka had begun to establish himself as a lyricist as well as a composer, but *A Little Princess* already had Brian Crawley on board to write the words.

"And I had read *A Little Princess* not long before, and it didn't strike my fancy," he said. "But I thought to myself, if I'm going to be a commercial creative artist, you can't necessarily always write the things that excite you. It might excite other people, and if it does, you have to find what might be exciting in it for you. And lo! — if I might be archaic — it happened. But it was a different route for me."

With passions stoked, Lipka, 39, was sitting outside a Starbucks in Mountain View, a few blocks from the theater where *A Little Princess* will have its world-premiere run Aug. 28–Sept. 19. Its creators hope the TheatreWorks production is a precursor to Broadway run, though no decisions have been made about life after Mountain View. "My understanding," Lipka said, "is that this production is this production."

The musical is based on the 1905 Frances Hodgson Burnett novel about Sara Crewe, raised in privilege in India and sent to a boarding school in England. When her father is reported dead, she is turned into a servant by the headmistress, taunted by her fellow students, and uses her imagination to find solace. Burnett also wrote *The Secret Garden* that *Little Princess* director Susan H. Schuman and designer Heidi Ettinger helped turn into a musical in 1991.

For the new musical, the setting has been moved from late Victorian England to the 1830s, and Sara's early life and relived memories from India to colonial Africa. Lipka, who combined electric guitars and jazz-age melodies in *The Wild Party*, has sought to integrate suggestions of 19th-century European musical sounds with West African drumming.

"When we think of African



Andrew Lipka wrote the songs for the new musical *A Little Princess*.

music, it tends to be South African music," Lipka said. "But West African music is very different. It's all talking drums. We have two drummers in the show, and then we have a harp, three reed players, a violin, and a cello. The show is a lot about cultures colliding in this child, and how she reconciles them."

No matter what the future holds for *A Little Princess*, Lipka has a lot on his plate. Projects include a musical titled *Jerry Christmas* and another based on the Betty Boop cartoon character. Both are out-and-out musical comedies, a form that Lipka shied away from because funny seemed less important than serious.

"People who are funny often feel like second fiddles," Lipka said. "But I've learned that maybe that's a gift of mine, and I shouldn't ignore it."

His work on *The Wild Party* came out of a very different place, and it landed him in the hospital. "To me, *The Wild Party* was about what sexual compulsion does to people," Lipka said. "I never took part in the party culture, and I wish it wasn't what non-gay people always think about the gay community. But that kind of behavior leads to death and ruined lives, and that's a dark place to live for several years while you're working on a piece."

On the day of the third preview, Lipka collapsed at home, split open his chin, and had to be stitched up at the hospital. "I weighed 147 pounds when that happened. I'm six-feet tall, and I looked awful. I had done a num-

ber on myself."

There was a further downward spiral, Lipka said, when *The Wild*

*Party* was not picked up for a Broadway transfer despite the pre-opening buzz. Theater veterans John Kander and Arthur Laurents helped pull Lipka out of his depression.

So did his partner, an executive with a Hollywood studio. "David is the most funny, positive, happy, funny, intelligent person," Lipka said of his partner of six years. "He is such a yang to my yin because I have the tendency to be dark and dour, and he just snaps me out of it."

For tickets to *A Little Princess*, call (650) 903-6000 or go to [theatreworks.com](http://theatreworks.com).

## Getting political

For its fifth annual festival of short plays, Eastenders Repertory Company is focusing on *One Hundred Years of Political Theatre*. Six short plays will be presented in a rotating repertory of two-play programs, running Aug. 31–Sept. 26 at the Eureka Theatre.

The pairings are Vladimir Mayakovsky's *The Bedbug* (1929) and Bertolt Brecht's *The Informer*

(1938), Athol Fugard's *Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act* (1972) and Vaclav Havel's *Audience* (1975), and Caryl Churchill's *Far Away* (2000) and Naomi Wallace's *The Retreating World* (2002–03).

For a full schedule, go to [eastenders.org](http://eastenders.org) or call (510) 568-4118.

## Short scenes

Impact Theatre opens its ninth season on Aug. 27 with *Fluffy Bunnies in a Field of Daisies*. Matt Chaffee's recent LA hit is about "men, women, and the virgin/whore complex." Ryan Montgomery is directing the production at LaVal's Subterranean in Berkeley. Call (510) 464-4468.

The San Francisco Fringe Festival, running Sept. 8–19, has released the schedule for the 46 productions that make up the 13th annual event. Go to [sffringe.org](http://sffringe.org) or call 673-3847. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

# A Day out of time

Spencer Day in concert at NCTC

by Mark Mardon

He seems to come from another era — the Golden Age of American songwriters — but San Francisco's Spencer Day is very much of our time, and he's shaping a fresh new jazz/pop consciousness. Precision, smoothness, a light, easy style, and sultry, sexy confidence marked the opening night of *An Evening with Spencer Day* at New Conservatory Theatre Center last Saturday night.

Day and his band of first-rate musicians rendered Day's original compositions interspersed with nods to inspiring predecessors, and the audience sat enraptured, completely won over. The brightly handsome, hugely gifted 26-year-old vocalist/songwriter pianist/bandleader captured our hearts, not for the first time.

Of course, he's the creator of the wild-and-crazy *Crimson Club* cabaret, and has played formal gigs at various plush venues hereabouts. This latest concert marks Day's best performance yet, in part because he's gained poise and self-assurance through ceaseless hard work, but also because the intimacy of NCTC's small theater lets every note ring crisp and clear. On opening night, each vocal in-



Day (left) with cellist Yair Evnine

flection could be heard down to a whisper, and you could see the wrinkles at Day's eyes as he smiled, and the veins on his neck when he laughed.

Now back on his home turf after hit shows in New York City, Day was joined in concert by his longtime collaborator, the darkly handsome, supremely talented cellist/guitarist Yair Evnine, and by virtuoso keyboardist Jerome Rossen on the Hammond organ, accordion and piano, and the masterful Chuck Bennett on stand-up bass.

Even as the audience swooned over Day's clean-cut, boy-next-door good looks, we could feel his genuine warmth and charm. He's personable and completely unpretentious, with the songwriting skills of Cole Porter or Paul Simon. One of the surprise numbers of the night was a cover of Simon's powerful, brooding "American Tune," so apt for our time ("Still, when I think of the road we're traveling on, / I wonder what's gone wrong.") Another surprise cover was Tori Amos' "Little Amsterdam," a Southern Gothic tale rendered with soul, as though born in the Deep

South and not Utah.

Day's own compositions made the night shine. His songwriting prowess was evident in "The Movie of Your Life" ("If your life had been a movie, how much would you enjoy it?"), "The Garden of Eden," and a hilarious song about the fear of flying, "Fly-a-phobia (Don't Want to Fly)," inspired by a harrowing episode on an airline Day wouldn't name — but it's American, and it flies West.

I had to wait until the encore to hear "Arizona Blue," off the new album *Introducing Spencer Day* ([www.yonasty.com](http://www.yonasty.com)). It's a gorgeous Country-Western ballad inspired by an Arizona road trip Day took with his brother and mother. But my favorite piece of the night was the Gershwin-inspired composition "Midtown Meditation." Rather than imitating Gershwin, Day composed an intricate, multifaceted piece about the bustle of Manhattan, capturing the town's energy, but with the noise and jitteriness kept in bounds. The number was distinctively Day, yet possessed the grace and verve of Gershwin's "An American in Paris."

The band proved a tight ensemble, with precise phrasing and timing, and a keen sense of cool, without being self-conscious or show-offy. Rossen on keyboards showed huge flair, and his versatility on multiple instruments was a huge plus for the show. Day himself on keyboards was no slouch, and at times we got Day and Rossen flailing away at keyboards simultaneously. Bassist Bennett served the band well, and it would be nice if he were let loose to solo more. Dreamy Evnine couldn't have hit a wrong note if he tried, so completely in tune was he with Day's vibe. ▼

*An Evening with Spencer Day* plays Fri.–Sun. through August 29 at NCTC. Call (415) 861-8972 or visit [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)



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# Spike Lee's big problematic lesbian joint

## Stud-for-hire gives sperm service to lesbian couples in new film

by David Lamble

I'm sitting across from Spike Lee's lesbian consultant Tristan Taormino. No sooner have I written that sentence than I wish I could rewrite it. Spike Lee's lesbian consultant? There's got to be something wrong here. No, the world in which Spike Lee has a lesbian consultant is the same world in which the governor of New Jersey calls himself a gay American, while resigning his job for having an affair with his state director of Homeland Security. If you think about it, it's the world of Lee's most provocative films.

Taormino works and plays one neighborhood away from the headquarters of Spike Lee's Forty Acres and Mule film company in the Ft. Green section of Brooklyn. A naturally vivacious woman who laughs a lot during our conversation about the new Spike Joint, *She Hate Me*, Taormino was very amused that the man who made *She's Gotta Have It* (a film that really pissed her off) and *Do the Right Thing* (a film she reveres) would call her.

Fearing he might get a lot of flak from lesbians after they saw his latest film, Lee hired her to advise him on the script, and give lesbian sensitivity training to the 20 actresses hired to portray lesbians buying sperm from Lee's hero, John Henry "Jack" Armstrong.

"I first got a script in September 2003, and my first impression was, Oh my God! This is going to make so many people so mad!" Taormino said. "What do I do now? Do I run screaming and say I cannot be involved with this, or do I stay, make some form of contribution, and see how it pans



Dania Ramirez (Alex), Kerry Washington (Fatima), Anthony Mackie (Jack)

out?"

*She Hate Me*, co-written by Spike Lee and Michael Genet, starts out as a corporate exposé, and then abruptly segues into a very different kind of film.

Jack Armstrong, played by up-and-coming African American actor Anthony Mackie, is a 31-year-old vice president for a cutting-edge biotech company that is supposed to be developing an AIDS vaccine. A huge financial and scientific scandal erupts, lead-

ing to the suicide of a significant character, we think, until he jumps out his 40th-floor office window. Jack soon finds himself in the uncomfortable role of corporate whistleblower: without a job, his assets frozen.

### Sperm banked

Jack, at the invitation of his ex-girlfriend Fatima (Kerry Washington), is asked to donate his sperm to her and her new girlfriend, Alex (Dania Ramirez). The women pay

Jack \$5,000 each. Then Fatima convinces a reluctant Jack to become a big black stud-for-hire: a bevy of female clients pays Jack to impregnate them, for a stud fee of \$10,000 each.

Audiences flocking to *She Hate Me* expecting to see a classic male wet-dream, one man and 19 lesbians opening their legs for him, will be disappointed. No sooner do the women show up at Jack's dimly lit but very expensively furnished pad than they demand that he drop his trousers and show them his tubesteak. Mackie's Jack is then relentlessly objectified by the women in a scene that overflows with the kind of hot-button dialogue that has been Lee's trademark.

"Is he circumcised?"

"I've never been with a man before."

"Just strip, bitch! These women have paid quite a lot of money."

The film is loaded with subtle touches: Jack's apartment is dominated by triptych of paintings depicting the battered, bruised face of former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Lewis. It's clearly an ironic touch linking Jack's sexual humiliation to the sad fate that befell Lewis in the latter days of his career, when he became a paid punching-bag to work off a huge tax lien from the IRS.

The iconic pairing of Jack with the fallen black messiah Lewis is coupled with the another subplot, where Jack's role as a persecuted whistleblower is compared to the tragic fate of Frank Willis, the African-American security guard whose role uncovering the Watergate break-in Lee believes was repaid by white American in a cur-

rency of unemployment. Willis wound up dead and forgotten at 52.

Actor Mackie calls Jack's nude scene challenging but in no way gratuitous. "There's an aspect of self-degradation, there's an aspect of just a straight-up slave auction, you know what I mean. You're objectifying this man just by looking at him as a piece of meat! So there's a certain level of understanding that went into that scene. It wasn't like Spike said, 'Alright, Dog, let's just get butt-ass and go for it.' It wasn't like that."

Spike Lee said at the time he tapped Mackie for the role of Jack that he had not seen Mackie's awesome performance playing a gay college student in Rodney Evans' Sundance-acclaimed first feature *Brother to Brother*. Mackie came to Lee's attention when the filmmaker was casting *Sucker Free City*, a film about San Francisco street gangs.

### Bright line

Many of the women who have seen the film at advance screenings have been impressed by the groundbreaking nature of Mackie's character. "Susie Bright commented, 'Oh, my gosh, it's a black submissive man!'" Taormino laughed as she envisions the filmmaker's reaction. "I can just hear Spike screaming in my ear, 'Whaaaaaat!'"

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# South American nightmare

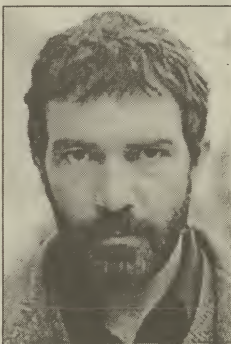
## 'Imagining Argentina' tries but falters

by David Lamble

In the new film *Imagining Argentina*, Antonio Banderas is Carlos, the artistic director of a Buenos Aires children's theatre with a teenage daughter and a journalist wife, Cecelia (Emma Thompson). Cecelia is a raker of muck. She writes articles on workers' complaints about bus schedules, the kind of stuff that here appears in the *Independent*, which everybody wipes their feet on as they head out the door. But, this being Argentina in 1976, whose military leaders lacked a sense of humor, a sense of their own absurdity, or just plain sense, we know from the get-go that this lady is trouble.

Sure enough, a group of thugish types show up at Carlos and Cecelia's house in the tackiest of American cars, green Ford Falcons, and take the lady off to some terrible place where unspeakable acts will be committed.

In his film *Missing*, Costa-Gavras got us all riled up about the abduction of an attractive American (John Shea) during the Nixon-Kissinger-sanctioned coup against the elected government of Chile. We know that Shea is a dead man, but also that those responsi-



Carlos (Antonio Banderas) searches.

ble (in this case, a collection of weak-chinned State Department weasels) will get their moral comeuppance in a film-long series of lectures from Jack Lemmon.

In *Argentina*, after Cecelia disappears, Carlos has waking dreams in which he can clearly see the fates of disappeared relatives from his theatre company. Believing his wife to be still alive, Carlos is frustrated when the spirit does not reveal her whereabouts, but instead leads him on a wild goose chase through the Pampas. Carlos comes to have birds on the brain,

and starts hanging out with owls and pink flamingos.

Whenever a Latin American movie stops making sense, one is tempted to drop the phrase "magic realism" into the review, hoping readers will mutter, "Ah ha," and think of all the films that use magic realism to some entertaining purpose. It's not essential that films addressing political oppression resemble *Casablanca* or *Schindler's List*, but if a film does depart from tried-and-true ways of stirring and focusing our indignation, it had better add up. Murky or flatfooted metaphors that we'll accept in a foreign language can seem risible when they are articulated in English.

It's been 14 years since Antonio Banderas appeared as the slippery lunatic Ricky in Almodovar's brilliant satire on why we seek love, *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*. In that time, the mercurial actor has changed countries and languages, and put on a few pounds. It's almost as if the culture shock were finally catching up with him, because in *Imagining Argentina*, the sparkle is gone from his eyes, and the bearded Banderas starts looking like bad Anthony Quinn. ▼

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# Scandalous Swedish movie star

The famous career of Ingrid Bergman is recounted

by Tavo Amador

Seldom in Hollywood history has image clashed with reality as it did with Ingrid Bergman (1915-82). Portrayed as wholesome and virtuous, she was banished following a sexual scandal. After several years, she returned triumphant, ultimately collecting three Oscars, second to Katharine Hepburn among actresses. Her final film, *Autumn Sonata* ('78), plays the Castro Theatre on August 24, part of a tribute to Swedish director Ingmar Bergman running August 20-September 2. It affords an opportunity to examine her performances on DVD.

Born to a German mother and Swedish father, she was orphaned but raised by an uncle. After studying briefly at Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre, she acted in Swedish films, becoming a star in Scandinavia. *Intermezzo* ('36) was seen by Katharine Brown, an aide to producer David Selznick. At Brown's insistence, Selznick met Bergman in Hollywood. He thought her too tall and in need of make-up. She offered to return to Europe, but he relented, signing her for an English version of *Intermezzo* ('39), with Leslie Howard, a romance between a concert pianist and a famous violinist who is a married man. Critics raved about her "natural" beauty, intelligence, and radiance.

Selznick lent her for *Adam Had Four Sons*, as a governess in love with their father, and for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* ('41), with Spencer Tracy. Originally cast as the ingenue with Lana Turner as the tart, she persuaded director Victor Fleming to switch their parts. Her reviews were mixed. She lost Maria opposite Gary Cooper in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* ('43) to



Ingrid Bergman and Liv Ullmann star in Ingmar Bergman's *Autumn Sonata*, playing the Castro Theatre this week.

Vera Zorina. Meanwhile, she was the third or fourth choice for *Casablanca* ('42), with Humphrey Bogart, but today anyone else seems inconceivable. It's her most famous performance, establishing her as the era's top romantic actress. When Paramount realized Zorina was ruining *Bell*, Bergman replaced her. Her talent almost overcame miscasting, the film was a hit, and she earned a losing Best Actress Oscar nomination.

She won the award for George Cukor's *Gaslight* ('44), as a Victorian wife nearly driven mad by husband Charles Boyer. She excelled in Alfred Hitchcock's dated *Spellbound* ('45), as a psychiatrist in love with hunky patient Gregory Peck — losing the Oscar to Joan Crawford's *Mildred Pierce*. In *The*

*Bells of Saint Mary's*, she was a nun opposite Bing Crosby's priest, a gooey mess but successful. The last pair earned her a New York Film Critics Award. Now Hollywood's most popular and acclaimed actress, she became *Notorious* ('46) with Cary Grant, another hit. Hitchcock directed. As the daughter of a Nazi spy in Brazil for America, she is wanton, sexy, disillusioned, but ultimately vulnerable, a brilliant performance. Free of Selznick, she rejected *To Each His Own* ('46) and *The Farmer's Daughter* ('47), Oscar winners for Olivia de Havilland and Loretta Young. On Broadway, she won a Tony as *Joan of Lorraine*, filming it as *Joan of Arc* ('48). But a third for Hitchcock, *Under Capricorn* ('49), miscast her as an alcoholic Irish-

woman in Victorian Australia, and failed.

## Public affair

So did her marriage to Dr. Peter Lindstrom, by whom she had a daughter, Pia, today a television journalist. After seeing Roberto Rossellini's *Rome: Open City* ('45), she wrote, offering to work for him. While making *Stromboli* ('49), they fell in love, and she became pregnant. Jean Renoir said she was "so honest, she will always prefer a scandal to a lie." It seems absurd now, but the American public was outraged: Saint Joan an adulteress and out-of-wedlock mother! Bergman was denounced on the US Senate floor. After the birth of her son, she married Rossellini. They would also have twin daughters, one of whom is beautiful actress/model Isabella Rossellini.

Barred from the American market, she starred in several

commercially unsuccessful movies for Rossellini, about which critical opinion remains divided. By '54, the marriage was over. Renoir made her a lyrical *Elena et Les Hommes*, then Hollywood offered *Anastasia* ('56). As a woman who may be the miraculously surviving daughter of Russian monarchs Nicholas and Alexandra, she dazzled, garnering another Oscar and a New York Film Critics Award. It made a fortune, sealing her extraordinary comeback. She was *Indiscreet* with Grant, a charming comedy about infidelity, then visited *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness* ('58), as a missionary in China. Both did well. She married Swedish impresario Lars Schmidt.

On television, she was mesmerizing in *The Human Voice* ('67), and on the big screen took Lauren Bacall's stage part in *Cactus Flower* ('69). As the plain dental assistant who transforms herself into a beauty, she was funny, and the film a smash. In '72, Senator Charles Percy publicly apologized for that body's earlier condemnation of her "immorality," an admission she gracefully accepted. She witnessed *Murder on the Orient Express* ('74), winning the Best Supporting Actress Oscar.

As the self-centered, charming concert pianist loved and resented by mousey daughter Liv Ullmann in *Autumn Sonata*, Bergman exceeded anything she had ever done, winning a host of awards, including her third from the New York Film Critics, but incredibly, losing the Oscar to Jane Fonda in *Coming Home*. Ill with breast cancer, she was *A Woman Called Golda* Meir ('82) on television, garnering a posthumous Emmy.

Although Bergman's ambition sometimes exceeded her abilities, she was an exceptional actress with rare charisma and integrity. At her best, she had few equals. The American Film Institute rated her fourth among the 20th century's greatest women legends, one notch above another Swede, Greta Garbo. ▼

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## Thomas Jane

◀ Arts cover

muscled up to an extreme.

Earlier in his career, there was *The Last Time I Committed Suicide* ('97), in which he plays the original beat, Neal Cassady, whose soul was admired by Jack Kerouac (Keanu Reeves), and whose ass was greatly yearned for by Allen Ginsberg (Adrien Brody). As this Ginsberg character notes after catching Cassady asleep in bed: "Who makes me happy when I'm sad?"

Then there was the very queer *The Velocity of Gary* ('98). Here Jane plays the title character, a gay hustler who opens up the film bare-chested and showcasing his washboard stomach. We meet him as he's in the midst of dousing himself with water from an open fire hydrant. After combing his hair, he struts away in his soaking, skin-tight jeans down Christopher Street, looking for action. Within 20 minutes, he's making out with Valentino (Vincent D'Onofrio), a porn star who made his name in the flick *Sinderella*. This is one of the hottest screen kisses, gay or straight, in celluloid history, bar none.

"Thank you," Jane replies. Did he receive gay fan mail?

"A little bit," he responds. "Depending on the audience that sees the film, it sort of dictates the kind of mail I get."

Why did he do *Gary*, a film that was taken out of the director's hands before its release?

"I felt that that was a great New York story," Jane recalls. "It was a terrific script full of lyricism and very poetic. That film ultimately failed in its purpose, but we started out with an amazing story."

So what's next, besides *The Punisher*?

Laughing, Jane says, "Actors live in a perpetual stage of uncertainty about what their future is. Really, your ability to be comfortable in all the uncertainty and the insecurity will allow you to maintain some longevity in the business. Otherwise, the powers-that-be will just drive you nuts, and you'll have to go be an accountant or something."

"For me, I've lived with a certain level of insecurity my whole life, so I've developed an easy companionship with the doubt. But in the end, we just have to, every once in awhile, be reminded we're human, and we have emotions, and life is pretty." Well, it's pretty as long as Jane's around. ▼

Opens Friday.



## FILM

# Up the proverbial creek

## Seth Green, Matthew Lillard & Dax Shepard sink 'Without a Paddle'

by Tim Nasso

You know their faces, if not their names. You've seen Seth Green on screen since the mid-'80s, when he portrayed a young Woody Allen in the semi-autobiographical *Radio Days*, and more recently in the *Austin Powers* films as Dr. Evil's son. Matthew Lillard debuted on the big screen as Kathleen Turner's son in John Waters' *Serial Mom*. Dax Shepard, the least recognized face and name if you're not a devotee of MTV's *Punk'd*, makes his film debut in *Without a Paddle*, a mindless, testosterone-charged film perfectly suited for late summer release.

None of the three stars, until now, has been privileged with top billing. In *Without a Paddle*, they share the honors. The poster for the film showcases each of the boys standing, head just above water, in a sinking canoe.

"I am 34 years old, and don't have what you'd call leading-man looks, so I have never had my name above the credits," says Matthew Lillard in a group interview, somewhat amused. "It's kind of funny that it's happening now, but I won't complain." Lillard's most successful movies to date include *Scream* and the *Scorpy Doo* films, where he plays Shaggy.

"Did you see my big package bouncing around all through the movie?" asks Seth Green, laughing, referring to many scenes in which the three prance around in their underwear in the woods, chased by a bear, by a mountain



Seth Green: big package delivery

man, (à la *Deliverance*, and with Burt Reynolds in the role), by two pot-growing, white-trash, fat slob with machine guns and grenades, and last but not least, down a waterfall at the end of a raging river.

Green's last film, *Party Monster*, was a modest hit with the gay community last year, since it portrayed the gay nightlife scene in late '80s/early '90s NYC, especially at The Limelight.

Choosing to play a drag queen in that film was a no-brainer for Green. "How could I not?" he asks, rhetorically. "It seemed like a progressive step. I mean, I made my acting debut at age six, in a summer camp performance of *Hello Dolly*."

In one "underwear" scene, Green is the mayonnaise in the middle of a toasted white-bread sandwich. In order to protect themselves from hypothermia, the

three young men spoon each other in a cave. What makes the scene even funnier is that Green's skin is the shade of a ghost, and he is surrounded by Lillard and Shepard, both of whom have perfect tans, and, it should be noted, each of whom stands at least 10 inches taller than the five-foot, four-inch Green.

"I just can't win every contest," he says. "I am short, I am pale, but I do have the biggest dick out of the three of us. Big things do come in small packages. There was no sock in my underwear when we were filming."

Since I was not on the set of the film and have not seen any of the three guys naked, we will just have to take Green's word for it.

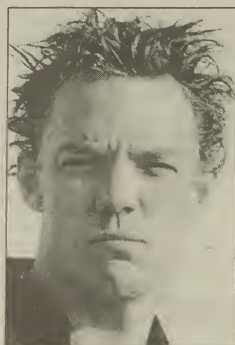
### Corn pops

"Was Seth bragging about his cock?" asks Dax Shepard when he walks in next. "I can tell you that mine is bigger than his. And who are you going to believe, him or me?" He gestures that he is almost a foot taller than Green.

"Seeing is believing," I reply. With that, Shepard begins to unzip his pants, revealing a pair of grey, button-fly Calvin Klein underwear, with a nice bulge, but stops just shy of pulling his cock out for me to see.

"Dude," he says. "Trust me. I was born in the Midwest. I am a cornfed boy."

Changing the subject just slightly, I ask Shepard how he got his big break. It's not often that one goes from a reality show to leading man in Hollywood. He



Matthew Lillard: not a looker?

replies, "I give all the credit to Ashton [Kutcher]," who spotted him on a comedy stage in Los Angeles and handpicked him for the role of his sidekick on *Punk'd*. Dax is his real name: his parents picked

it out of a Harold Robbins novel.

When Matthew Lillard finally walks up to the table, the talk is more about the chemistry the three stars have on screen than anything else. "I bet all they talked about was their cocks," he says, smiling. "Well, you'll just have to think of something else to talk about with me. I am a married man, with a daughter. I am past that juvenile type of behavior!"

"But I did work out for a long time, since I had six weeks of shooting in my underwear," Lillard admits. "Didn't my abs and arms look great?"

If eye candy is what you're looking for this month at the movies, then *Without a Paddle* will surely give you what you're looking for. And it just might give its three stars a chance at becoming full-time leading men. ▼

Opens Friday.

## Andrew Noble

◀ Arts cover

concerns the misadventures of a lovely suburban lad, as engagingly played by curly-haired cherubic newcomer Andre Noble. His 18th birthday present is a joint, a skateboard, and the advice to stop being a virgin.

"Noble's Cliff tugs at your heart with tears shed after a spanking by a john, and more seriously in an emotionally harrowing scene, after he is raped by the hunky hustler Butch (Brendan Fehr), who he has a crush on."

### Natural born

*Sugar's* director, legendary Canadian theatre veteran John Palmer, gave an early stage role to Keanu Reeves. Palmer describes how Noble caught his eye. "Andre just came and auditioned, and he was fresh out of Newfoundland. He was totally honest. He could not 'act' in quotation marks. I hate acting, but he's just totally genuine and real."

*Sugar's* co-producer Damion Nurse remembers a night when he realized they had cast well. "Just before shooting, Andre and Brendan went to a bar where a lot of hustlers hang out. They went with our co-writer, Todd Klinek, who is familiar with the scene. They were able to talk to these guys and get a sense of what made them tick. Andre looked for the humanity in these people by asking questions. He wanted to find out what about them would make someone like Cliff fall in love with them."

Upon arriving in Toronto, Noble helped start a fledgling theatre company. Friend and fellow actor Mark Austin recalls when he and Noble would run lines on a crowded street, or even get passers-

by involved in their scene rehearsals. Asked to describe his friend by a CBC Radio reporter, Austin replied, "Majestic. He has like really big eyes, so he didn't really do a lot on screen or stage. He just sat there, and it gave him this quality, you could just see what was on his mind." The company has been renamed The Noble Players.

Lewis Tice, a publicist with *Sugar's* distributor, TLA Releasing, notes the strong impression the boyish young actor made on audiences at the Philadelphia festival. "A lot of questions focused on the rape scene. He would reply, 'Well, I've never been in that type of situation, but it certainly was traumatic filming it. When you submerge yourself in a character that way, you can't help feeling a little the way the character does in a scene that intense.'"

"He was certainly from the Uta Hagen school, where you take the materials that are around you, and you incorporate them into your character, but you also take a little bit of yourself to fashion a character that is uniquely its own."

Hanging out for a few days with Noble in Philly, Lewis was impressed by his poise. "He came across as very mature for his age. Because there was a point he was asked, 'Well, what about the drugs? What did you guys do?' He talked about how they used, not sugar, but some other substance to represent the drugs that Cliff and Butch ingest."

"Andre talked about how, when he was a young kid, even at 10, there was nothing else to do in a small town, so they experimented with alcohol and drugs. He talked about how he used to do mushrooms and have a psychedelic experience. When I found out what had happened, it was a shock, but at the same time, it was something

that Andre would do because he's very nature-oriented. He's prone to eating nature's fruits."

### First kiss

The Eye asked Noble about his first male screen kiss with Brendan Fehr. "He's a Mennonite, man — what can I say? I wouldn't recommend kissing Mennonites. He ripped my face off with his whiskers in our first kiss, which was a really heavy make-out scene. It was like sandpaper."

Noble admitted his early fears about the G word. "I was homophobic for a short period, because I was always being called gay, and I was like, 'Damn these gay people.' But these days, I don't even believe in sexual identity, I just plain don't. I think people are attracted to people. Being attracted to one gender is like being only attracted to one race."

Producer Nurse is grateful that Noble had one big shining moment. "Andre was obviously taken away from us way too young. But I try to remember that he achieved, in a short time, what most actors strive for their entire careers. He got a dream role that challenged him and allowed him to show his ability, and get recognition for it. Thankfully, a part of him can live on forever through this film, and I know that would make him very happy."

At end of *Sugar*, Cliff stares at an open casket, at the body of a young hustler. His kid sister sobs after the funeral. "It's not fair, it's just not fair." In what will now seem a cruel irony, Noble, as Cliff, comforts the little girl. Then we watch Noble walk off in his first and last starring role, tossing away his skateboard, heading towards his character's adult future and his own tragically limited horizon. ▼

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# Relating to mental illness

Groundbreaking 'The Snake Pit' stars Olivia de Havilland on DVD

by Tavo Amador

Hollywood has rarely made films about mental illness, and when it has, the connection between the audience and the afflicted person has seldom been strong. The individual battling the illness has generally been portrayed as sympathetic but different from "the rest of us," famously in *A Beautiful Mind* (2001), *Rain Man* ('88), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* ('75). Sometimes, the patient is a celebrity, as in *Frances* ('82) with Jessica Lange. Other times, the problem results from violence, as with Joan Crawford in *Possessed* ('47). *The Snake Pit* ('48), starring Olivia de Havilland, is an exception. This very influential movie has just been released in DVD.

Virginia Cunningham (de Havilland) is first seen sitting on a bench. She hears voices: it seems a doctor is questioning her. As the camera pulls back, another woman (Celeste Holm), sitting on the next bench, is seen comforting Virginia. We soon realize they're on the grounds of a mental hospital where they're being treated.

Virginia's husband Robert (Mark Stevens) tells a sympathetic psychiatrist known by his nickname "Dr. Kik" (Leo Genn) how they met, fell in love, married, and when her illness manifested itself. The doctor prescribes a regimen

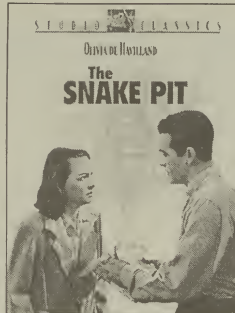
that he hopes will lead to recovery. This includes several electric shock treatments, intended to stun patients into improvement. In Virginia's case, she suffers from blocked memories, and Dr. Kik is convinced her recovery is contingent upon discovering what she is suppressing.

The electric shock treatments are harrowing, the more so because we witness only the first and are left to imagine the rest. Equally disturbing is Virginia's lack of control over her treatment. Fortunately, she has a loving husband and a compassionate, competent doctor. But, as the film shows, all patients aren't as lucky. Gay men were often subjected to electric shock treatments to "cure" them, a barbaric practice that continued into the '70s.

Virginia progresses slowly. She suffers setbacks, one because Robert brings her to his family's farm before she's ready. In the end, thanks to her courage, effective treatment, and Robert's support, she leaves the hospital to resume a productive life.

## Breakdown place

Mental illness is much better understood today than in '48. It's now known that it often has biological causes. To that extent, the movie is dated. It also simplifies Freudian theory regarding how to "cure nervous breakdowns." What remains relevant, however, are the



conditions under which patients were housed, conditions that paved the way for only partially completed reforms.

Then there is de Havilland's remarkable performance. Well-established as one of Hollywood's finest and loveliest actresses, de Havilland's Virginia strikes a

chord with viewers that makes it very difficult to distance themselves from her. Without glamorizing her appearance, she's attractive, intelligent, creative (Virginia is a writer), independent, assertive, funny — in short, quite admirable and natural. By foregoing flamboyant histrionics and focusing on genuine emotion, de Havilland makes Virginia authentic, and all the more touching. Realizing that someone like her can suffer from mental afflictions is as eye-opening today as when the movie was made.

De Havilland won the New York Film Critics Award for Best Actress, but lost the Oscar to Jane Wyman's *Johnny Belinda*. (She had won Hollywood's premier award for *To Each His Own* ('46), and would win a second for '49's *The Heiress*.) Director Anatol Litvak paces the film well. The portrayals of many psychotic patients held in large wards — known as snake pits

— are often frightening, but not sensationalized. Some of the doctors and nurses are insensitive and arrogant, but even they appear sincerely motivated. Stevens, Genn, Holm, and handsome Glen Langan as another sympathetic doctor are all effective.

The film was instrumental in ending the dehumanizing practice of institutionalizing the mentally ill, except in the most severe cases. Eventually, most such hospitals were closed, to be replaced with local facilities that would provide patients with care and allow them to function as independently as possible. Unfortunately, in California and elsewhere, funding for these community-based facilities wasn't provided and, for the last 30 years, cities have seen a huge increase in homeless people clearly needing mental treatment. *The Snake Pit* is a moving reminder of the origins of this terrible problem. ▼

# Hitchcock's American debut

Suspenseful 'Rebecca' is out on DVD

by Tavo Amador

Fresh from his triumphant *Gone With the Wind* ('39), independent producer David O. Selznick (1902-65) filmed another bestselling novel, Daphne DuMaurier's *Rebecca* ('40). To direct this superb tale of suspense, mystery, and romance, he hired England's Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980), bringing him to Hollywood for his American debut. Selznick scored again, winning another Best Picture Oscar. Happily, it's now available in DVD.

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again," is the famous opening line from the novel, referring to the Gothic-style mansion where much of the movie is set. The story has many elements of classic melodrama, including terror in an old, dark house. The film begins with a flashback as the nameless heroine (Joan Fontaine, in her star-making part), employed as a companion by the snobbish Mrs. Van Hopper (a perfectly cast Florence Bates), meets the handsome, wealthy widower Maxim de Winter (Laurence Olivier) in Monte Carlo. Unaware that her plain, shy personal assistant is being courted by the dashing Max, Mrs. Van Hopper tells her about his late wife, the elegant, beautiful, glamorous Rebecca, whose premature death has left him melancholy. Mrs. Van Hopper's dismay when informed that her companion has married Max is very amusing.

Arriving at Manderley, Max's ancestral home in the English countryside, the second Mrs. De Winter is met by the staff, headed by the formidable housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers (Judith Anderson, at her most subversive yet malevolent). The bride, unaccustomed to



such a life, makes embarrassing mistakes. She feels intimidated by the ghost of Rebecca. Nonetheless, Max remains enchanted by her. She soon meets his sister and brother-in-law (a witty Gladys Cooper and Nigel Bruce) and Rebecca's cousin, the sly George Sanders, in one of his earliest gentleman-bitch roles.

Obsessed with Rebecca to the point of repressed lesbianism, Mrs. Danvers torments the second Mrs. De Winter. The suspense grows as the shy bride battles the ghost of the first wife, a struggle she fears she's losing. The climactic ending remains classic.

## Hidden rage

Hitchcock's direction is masterful. The film is beautifully paced, and the black-and-white Academy Award-winning cinematography increases the tension. Olivier, in an Oscar-nominated performance, is romantic, charming, and a touch enigmatic. Anderson's Mrs. Danvers is one of the scariest characters in any Hitchcock picture, hiding rage and madness beneath cold good manners. She lost the Best Supporting Actress Oscar to Jane Darwell's maudlin Ma Joad in *The*

*Grapes of Wrath*, a serious error in judgment on the Academy's part.

The most compelling reason for the film's timeless appeal, however, is Fontaine, who expertly conveys the conflict between reality and perception that her character embodies. She acts plain, dowdy, and dull, but we realize she is beautiful, intelligent, resourceful, and want her to discover the truth about herself. The audience knows why Max loves her, yet understands her own fears that she will disappoint him.

Fontaine won the role over better-known and more experienced competition. As he had done in casting Scarlett O'Hara, Selznick auditioned several well-known actresses for what would be the second-most-sought-after part in film history. The DVD includes tests made by Vivien Leigh, Loretta Young, Margaret Sullivan, a 16-year-old Anne Baxter, and Fontaine, and confirms the wisdom of the producer's choice. Fontaine, although only 22 when filming began, was, in fact, chic, sophisticated, and aware of her own loveliness, which makes her performance all the more noteworthy.

Selznick fell in love with her, but she resisted his advances. As he had with Leigh, and would with Ingrid Bergman, he signed Fontaine to a personal contract, but found her too independent for his liking. Fontaine was nominated for Best Actress, but the Oscar went to Ginger Rogers for her teary *Kitty Foyle*, one of the biggest mistakes in Academy Award history. Partial compensation came the next year, however, when, again guided by Hitchcock, Fontaine won the Oscar and the New York Film Critics Award for *Suspicion*, not nearly as good, but belated acknowledgment that she had given a landmark performance in *Rebecca*. ▼

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## MUSIC

# Roland with the gloves (and shirt) off

Christophe Rousset and Les Talens Lyriques amaze

by Tim Pfaff

Record collectors have lists of things we never thought we'd see on CD. The operas of Jean-Baptiste Lully featured heavily on mine. Given the tidbits that had appeared on LP, that seemed less than tragic. As he has with so much other repertoire, Christophe Rousset has changed all that, dramatically, with recordings of two Lully operas that—if "regular" operaphiles bothered with the Baroque—would figure on that much-vaunted list of perfect opera recordings.

With his performances and recording of *Persée* two years ago, Rousset demonstrated both the greatness and wonder of Lully's operatic métier. Again with his scandalously good ensemble, Les Talens Lyriques, he has followed it up with a complete *Roland* (Ambrosio).

The opera was Lully's favorite, and now we know why. What we don't know is why the openly gay Rousset chose to take his shirt off for the booklet photograph, but like everything else in this continuously amazing production, it's not a miscalculation.

While the production on which this three-CD set is based was on the boards of the Lausanne Festival last January, someone figured out that, since there was no *Roland* recording, the time had come. Private funds were raised, perhaps by auctioning off Rousset's cast-off *coutier*, in time to get the piece recorded under optimal conditions, between performances. The musicians could not be more in the music.

For the modern sensibility, this is as difficult as opera gets. It's unrelentingly florid, in ways only experts can make sound expressive and not just excessive. It's episodic, interrupting the action for set

pieces including choruses, dance sequences, and other instrumental interludes. Taken on anything but their own charming terms, these divertissements can seem ineffably silly, in the "Let them eat cake" mode. And the operas are long.

Rousset and his ace colleagues (the vocal cast contains no names you know, all names you should) don't get around the problems, they plunge into them with relish, and the opera seems almost to speed along. Certainly in its single most famous passage, Roland's fourth-act finale aria, it's as cyclopic as music gets.

## Mosaic shimmy

The ensemble's command of the diverse musical elements makes the piece a shimmering musical mosaic in which each tile sparkles, and the whole coheres in colorful panels of compelling, cinematic tableaux. While this trans-

fixing *Roland* unfolds, Handel's opera on the same subject, *Orlando*, seems almost drably linear by comparison. The driving force is the band, which plays with astounding expertise and musical character. Driving it is Rousset's harpsichord playing, unquestionably the world's finest.

Their support goads his cast of young singers to polished performances of almost unimaginable psychological penetration. French Baroque singing is not about the proper execution of a prodigious variety of ornaments. It's about rendering contortionist musical lines into the most highly refined expression of rapidly shifting human emotions. Instead of being secondary characters, the illicit lovers Angelique and Médor dominate the first three of the opera's five acts. Anna-Maria Panzarella and Olivier Dumait give performances of which Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna can only dream.

The uniformly great cast sings as if they'd been performing these roles for a lifetime. Nicolas Testé (*Roland*) need only fear that other directors will be after his Wotan. His suave, low baritone wraps itself around the impossibly diverse music of Act IV, where jealousy drives him to madness, with a concentration on expressive detail that almost diverts attention completely from the amber beauty of his voice. Star stuff.

The big betrayal aria that closes Act IV, the opera's musical climax, is a furious flurry of vocal acting that fuses note with word to chilling effect. The spitfire orchestral accompaniment, one of the *bona fide* astonishments of the score, is executed with icy brio.

The expansive chaconne that concludes Act III is nearly as



Why is openly gay Rousset bare?

amazing, showing off Les Talens' chorus and smaller vocal ensembles over instrumental playing of real majesty. For me, the most charming divertissement is Act I's appearance by two islanders from the Far East, bearing Roland's gift of a bracelet to Angelique. "Let us shun beauties/ Who are cruel," they sing with guileless sweetness. "Let us fear their power! What is the use of seeing them? What suffering! What torture! To love/ One who is unfeeling! If we fall in love/ Let us love in order to be happy." Not bad, as Baroque opera "morals" go, and appearing early enough to give focus to the ensuing drama.

If Pamela Rosenberg's successor brought this production, whole, to the Florence Gould, audiences would flock to it. ▼

# Are the kids alright?

Teen and tween pop out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

I can't help but think about child labor laws and parental pimping every time I hear a new CD by a tween or teen. If there isn't a law to protect children from producing this kind of junk, shouldn't there be a law protecting children and adults from having to listen to it? Clearly, the Simpson and Spears parents learned nothing from the senseless deaths of Anissa (Buffy on *Family Affair*) Jones and Jon Benet Ramsey, about the toll that show biz takes on kids.



Co-written with Butch Walker (formerly of *Marvelous 3*), Avril Lavigne's hit single "My Happy Ending" from her latest album *Under My Skin* (Arista/RCA) is the kind of catchy pop song that defines a summer. Sure, it's laced with a sneer, and the radio-censored "shit" trips me up every time, but it beats "Sk8er Boi." That said, the remaining pre-fab songs still sound soulless and hollow. Manufactured anger is hard to take seriously, especially from someone Lavigne's age. I mean, I have grudges older than she is.

Just as Jessica Simpson has exceeded the saturation point, her younger sister Ashlee Simpson bursts forth like the alien that exploded out of John Hurt's chest in *Alien*. Distancing herself from Jess, Ashlee dyed her hair black and rocks out with a pre-fabricated sneer. But really, how punk can you possibly be when your father is managing your career? Sure, her single "Pieces of Me" is a catchy bit of fluff, and it's fun to hear her



lashing out on "Shadow," in which she turns sibling rivalry into a contact sport, but personally, I'd rather listen to Lisa Simpson wail on her saxophone. Now *there's* a kid with real talent.

I don't know about you, but I've had more than enough of Hilary Duff, and I beg to differ with the title of Duff's concert DVD *The Girl Can Rock* (Hollywood Records DVD). Maybe her band can rock. The most that Duff can do is strut, pout, smile and pose, and that's where it begins and ends. There is a Duff sibling, Haylie, waiting in the wings to wreak havoc on impressionable tween-aged girls everywhere.

Speaking of family, Sarah Hudson, cousin of Kate and daughter of Mark Hudson (one of the Hudson brothers), airs her dirty laundry on the title track to her *Naked Truth* (S-Curve/EMI) debut disc. After forgiving her parents for the damage they did to her, she admits, "I've already kissed a girl on ecstasy—it's all the same," which is intended to be as informative as it is shocking. Hudson gets production assistance from openly gay singer/songwriter/producer Desmond Child on "Girl on the Verge." She works her rebel-outsider status in the remaining songs, although how much of an outsider she can be with her pedigree is in question.

## Aging well

The brothers Hanson and their latest album *Underneath* (3CG) are proof of the way that young talent can develop into something long-lasting. As young as they were (11-16) at the time of their major label debut, the trio had a

musical maturity sorely lacking in other boy groups. These brothers are musicians and songwriters, which keeps them a few steps ahead of the others. "Underneath," which features collaborations with Gregg Alexander, Matthew Sweet and others, takes the brothers to new heights.



Alanis Morissette may have been 21 when her debut album *Jagged Little Pill* was perched atop the charts, but the adolescent residue that colored her songs spoke directly to high-schoolers, who embraced her and her rage. Morissette's music may have launched 1,000 imitators, but it sounds like she's trying to distance herself from herself on her latest album *So-Called Chaos* (Maverick). It's less chaotic than her followers might have liked. The jagged "Eight Easy Steps" rings with Morissette's trademark fury, and the songs that follow simmer with sarcasm. But the package might be a bit too slick and polished to be effective, and Morissette is beginning to sound less convincing or convinced.

Something of a phenomenon in her homeland of Norway, 18-year-old Maria Mena wears her Alanis Morissette influence on her sweater sleeve on "You're the Only One," the opening track of her domestic debut disc *White Turns Blue* (Columbia). Mena, who co-wrote all 12 songs on the disc, has a pleasant voice, and understands restraint and control. It's easy to understand why her hit single "My Lullaby" garnered her some attention at home, and it would come as no surprise if it did the same for her Stateside. ▼

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# OUT & ABOUT



Patrick-Ian Polk's *Noah's Arc* premieres at the Oakland Int'l Black GLBT Film Festival at Oakland's Parkway Theater this Sunday.

## Calendar by Mark Mardon

### Oakland is tops

**J**oe Hawkins, founder of the 2nd Annual Oakland International Black Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Film Festival, maintains that when it comes to serving the African-American GLBT Community, Oakland does it best.

"Contrary to popular belief," says Hawkins, "unlike its famous sister the bay (San Francisco), Oakland and the East Bay is home to the largest population of African & African-American gays and lesbians in Northern California and has one of the largest and most ethnically diverse concentrations of gays and lesbians in the world."

Adds Hawkins: "We were overwhelmed by the community support that we received at last year's film festival. This year, AIDS Project East Bay (APEB) and the city of Oakland's Marketing & Cultural Arts Department have signed on as presenting sponsors. It feels good to be a part of a community of filmmakers and artist that are committed to creating something that is uniquely Oakland."

This film festival is part of "Bay Area Black In The Life Pride," a week-long celebration of African & African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender life & culture.

• 3pm screening — World premiere; MoJAM Entertainment, LLC, presents *The Ski Trip* (1hr:18 min.), directed by Oakland native Maurice Jamal. *The Ski Trip* marks Jamal's feature-film directorial debut. It opens a world we've never seen on a movie screen: the first feature-length romantic comedy featuring gay Black and Latino characters.

Set against the colorful backdrop of New York City, *The Ski Trip* is a romantic comedy following the exploits of a group of gay and lesbian urban friends as they live, love, lust and make big mistakes on a wild wacky weekend away from the big city. It stars Jamal (Corey), Darren Flemming (Terry/Grenadine Ross), Cassandra Cruz (Nikki), John Rankin (Omar), Emanuel Xavier (Carlos), and Nathan Hale (Byron). The film opens a world we've never seen on a movie screen: the first feature-length romantic comedy featuring gay Black and Latino characters.

• 6pm screening — *Noah's Arc*, a new gay series from writer/director Patrick-Ian Polk, premieres in conjunction with a national promotional tour supported by the Human Rights Campaign and the Black AIDS Institute. Independently produced, *Noah's Arc* ([www.noahsarc.net](http://www.noahsarc.net)) is America's first Black gay series. Written in the style of *Sex and the City*, *Queer As Folk* and *Soulfood*, *Noah's Arc* gives today's black gay community a voice in a sea of gay-and-lesbian programming targeted at the mainstream.

The story: Noah, Alex, Ricky and Chance are four friends living the gay life in Los Angeles. Noah (Darryl Stephens) is a struggling screenwriter embarking on a new love affair with newly out and much more successful screenwriter, Wade (Jensen Atwood). HIV/AIDS counselor Alex (Rodney Chester) always keep it real with his clients but struggles to do the same with his anesthesiologist boyfriend, Trey (Gregory Keith). Ricky (Christian Vincent) owns a trendy and hip clothing store on Melrose and is the playboy of the group, while college professor Chance (Doug Spearman) has recently married and adopted his partner Eddie's (Jonathan Julian) three year old daughter after a whirlwind courtship. Throw in Chance's amorous teaching assistant, Bryan (Johnny Smith), Ricky's hot, new store clerk, Dwayne (Nate Adams) and flamboyantly fabulous fashion designer Romeo (Dwen Curry). Expect side-splitting comedy and shocking sexuality! ▼

The 2nd Annual Oakland Int'l Black GLBT Film Fest happens this Sunday, August 22, at Oakland's Parkway Theater, 1834 Park Blvd. Info: [www.clubrimshot.com/filmfestival.html](http://www.clubrimshot.com/filmfestival.html)



Seth Montfort gears up for "Lizst in Leather" at the Victorian Englander House. See Sunday.

## Fri 20

### Marga Gomez's Intimate Details @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros begins its 27th Season (2004 - 2005) with the West Coast Premiere of Marga Gomez's *Intimate Details*, written by and starring bi-coastal playwright and lesbian comic extraordinaire Marga Gomez, directed by David Schweitzer. Marga Gomez's *Intimate Details* is Marga's 6th solo performance and the winner of the 2004 GLAAD Media Award for Off-Off Broadway theater. Marga takes the "walk of shame" through her sexual backstories in this comedy dedicated to all the girls (and inanimate objects) she has ever loved before. Watch helplessly as Marga moves in with a sociopath suburban housewife during Gay pride month, hooks up with a public access TV reporter in Buffalo and humps a statue to the shattering point when she's home alone. Feel dirty when you leave the theater. Earlier this year Marga premiered her 7th solo performance, *LOS BIG NAMES*, in a 4 week run at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. She has been produced Off-Broadway at The Public Theater, The Whitney Museum, Performance Space 122, La MaMa Theater, Dixon Place, nationally at Museum of Contemporary Arts MA Boston Center for the Arts, San Diego Repertory Theater, Highways Performance Space and The Mark Taper Forum (LA). The Marsh and Theater Rhinoceros (SF), and internationally at The Montreal Comedy Festival, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, London ICA and Amsterdam's Triplex X Festival. In 2002 Marga co-wrote and co-starred with Carmelita Tropicana in *Single Wet Female* for a 3-week sold-out engagement at NY's Performance Space 122. She has also joined the casts of *THE Vagina Monologues* several times, sharing the stage with Rita Moreno, JoBeth Williams, Barbara Rush and others. Showtimes/prices: Wednesdays, 8pm, \$15.00; Thursdays, 8pm, \$23.00; Fridays/Saturdays, 8pm, \$28; Sundays, 3pm & 7pm, \$23. Show runs thru Sept. 5. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 415-861-5079. [www.theatrhino.org](http://www.theatrhino.org)

**Ahura @ Old First Church**  
Old First Concert Series presents "A Sufi Trance Meditation Concert" featuring the Austrian-based group Ahura live in concert. An evening of sacred chant inspired by poems of Persian poets and mystics, above all by Mevlana Djellaladdin Rumi. This is a sacred space dedicated with poetry, music, and silence. Ahura uses traditional oriental sound structures and chants, as well as by including new modern sound elements. They strive for music as a universal means of communication to unite cultures and people beyond all ethnic contrasts and differences. For their music and sounds are an intuitive

healing way to hint at the unity and essence of all things, but without developing a dogma or doctrine. \$15. 8pm. OLD FIRST Church, 1725 Sacramento St. (between Polk and Van Ness Ave.). Tix: 415-474-1608. Info: [www.ahuraproject.com](http://www.ahuraproject.com)

### Shawn Ryan @ Empire Plush Room

The Empire Plush Room and San Francisco audiences welcomes the return Bay Area native Shawn Ryan, winner of the 2000 Bay Area Cabaret Competition and a dazzling performer who combines classic standards and insightful comedy. Mr. Ryan will launch an extensive national tour of his new cabaret show at the Empire Plush Room with his music director, Kelly Park. \$20-\$25 cover & two drink minimum. Show runs Aug. 17-22. The York Hotel, 940 Sutter Street (@ Leavenworth). Tix/info: 415-885-2800; [www.empireplushroom.com](http://www.empireplushroom.com)

### Breakfast With Scot @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten presents the world premiere of NCTC-commissioned comedy *Breakfast With Scot*, by Michael Downing, based on his novel of the same title. A gay couple, Sam and Ed, inherit a child, Scot, an 11-year-old Truman Capote or Quentin Crisp, limp wrists and all. Scot shows up with a musical hairbrush, a pair of lacy white socks, and two makeup kits. He wears a white patent-leather belt with "pink dancing dogs and jazzy little musical notes" on it, and his interest in school sports is limited to baton twirling and possibly cheerleading. \$40 opening night; \$32 Saturdays; \$28 Fridays; \$26 Thursdays & Sundays. 8pm (2pm Sun. Aug. 22 & 29, Sept. 5 & 12). Runs thru Sept. 12. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market). Tix: 415-861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

### An Evening with Spencer Day @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's "In Concert Series" presents *An Evening with Spencer Day*. \$25 Fri. & Sat.; \$20 Sun. matinee. 8pm (3pm Sun.). Show runs thru Aug. 29.

### Divine @ Cherry Bar

It's truly Divine. Join the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), Equality California (EQCA) and Cherry Bar for an evening of socializing, wine tasting, martinis and music you love to dance to! All proceeds (100% of net door) go directly to NCLR and EQCA earmarked toward their efforts to win the right to marry! Hosted by Chris Carnes (Carnes Productions), Mariah Hanson (Cherry Bar), Kate Kendall (NCLR), Molly McKay (EQCA), Alison Terry-Evans (HillGiriz.com), Sallyanne Monti (BACW), Heather Findlay (Girlfriends Magazine) Absolut Vodka, and Vivian Gay, Domain De Nizas Winery. Expected to attend: Mark Leno (CA State As-

semblyman), Mabel Teng (SF Assessor); Tom Ammiano (SF Supervisor); Leslie Katz (Chair, Democratic Central Committee); Kate Kendall (Executive Director of NCLR); Molly McKay (Associate Director of EQCA and Marriage Equality California); Heather Hiles (Member SF School Board, candidate for re election); Miguel Bustos (Candidate for Supervisor, District 9); Dr. Anita Grier (Member College Board and Candidate for Supervisor, District 11); and Issac Wang (Candidate for Supervisor, District 7). Enjoy an hour and a half (8-9:30pm) of premium wine flights\* featuring the wines of Domaine De Nizas plus fruits & cheese, conversation and social networking. From 9:30pm on dance to the hits of the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s. Dress code: Dressy. \$10 cover. \*Wine flights are an additional cost. Divine is at Cherry Bar, 917 Folsom St. Every 3rd Friday.

### Junk Queer Cinema @ ATA Gallery

Friday August 20 and Saturday August 21, 8 pm: Junk: An Evening of Queer Underground Cinema. Malaqueche Productions is screening DIY, no budget, campy, underground, independent, fagallious, genderfuck, pro fattle, furry and freaky images for a night of queer underground cinema. No less than sixteen short films in one evening, including music videos for Le Tigre, Gravy Train! and Screem Club, docs on queers in hip hop, homo organizing in Brazil, and trans youth, kick-ass animation pieces with homo crayons, genderqueers and sterilized cherries, and soon-to-be cult classics: *Plushie lovin*, *drag horror*, and *faux punk gang wars*. \$6. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Info: [www.malaqueche.com/junk.html](http://www.malaqueche.com/junk.html); [www.atasite.org](http://www.atasite.org)

## Sat 21

### Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus

Artistic Director Michael Carlson leads the Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus in their "Fifth Annual Invitational Pride Concert," featuring special guests Out On A Clef, VOICES: East Bay Lesbian Choral Ensemble, and The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco. \$12 adv; \$15 door. Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. Tix: [east-bayvoice.org](http://east-bayvoice.org). Info: 800-706-2389; [www.oebgmc.org](http://www.oebgmc.org)

### Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado @ YBCA

Opening night: The world-famous Lamplighters of San Francisco present *The Mikado*, a hit since its 1885 London debut. A comedic story filled with wordplay and mistaken identities amidst the strict social class structure of 19th-century Japan. Will the young, handsome Nanki-Poo be beheaded? Will the beautiful Yum-Yum be forced to marry Ko-Ko, the lord-high executioner? What happens when The Mikado himself comes to the town of Titipu to make sure Japanese law is being enforced? The sets and costumes of Lamplighters productions are lavish and colorful and the music, based on the beautiful far-eastern tone scale, is astonishing. The company performs with a professional 21-piece orchestra under the baton of award-winning conductor Baker Peeples. \$30-\$42 adults; \$25-\$37 seniors/young adults; \$10-\$17 children/students. 8pm Sat, Aug. 21; 2pm Aug 22; 8pm Aug 26 (Pay What You Can Night); 8pm Aug 27; 2pm & 8pm Aug 28; 2pm Aug 29; 8pm Sept. 2, 3, 4 & 5. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Tix: 415-978-2787; [www.lamplighters.org](http://www.lamplighters.org)

### Polkicide & Kitten on The Keys @ 12 Galaxies

A kielbasa shakin' show for August! Featuring Polkicide-San Francisco's own cult polkateers! Plus: The naughty piano pandemonium of Kitten On The Keys. Sponsored by KUSF 90.3 FM. \$8. 9pm. 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. (at 22nd). Info: 415-970-9777; [12galaxies.com](http://12galaxies.com); [www.polkicide.com](http://www.polkicide.com); [www.kittymusic.com](http://www.kittymusic.com)

## Sun 22

### SF Hiking Club @ Tomales Bay

Join other outdoors lovers for a gentle uphill climb through oak forests with lush ferns to a small ridge with open pine woods and nice views of Tomales Bay. It's a moderate 8-mile hike with a 500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores sts. Info: 415-487-6410; [www.sfhiking.com](http://www.sfhiking.com)

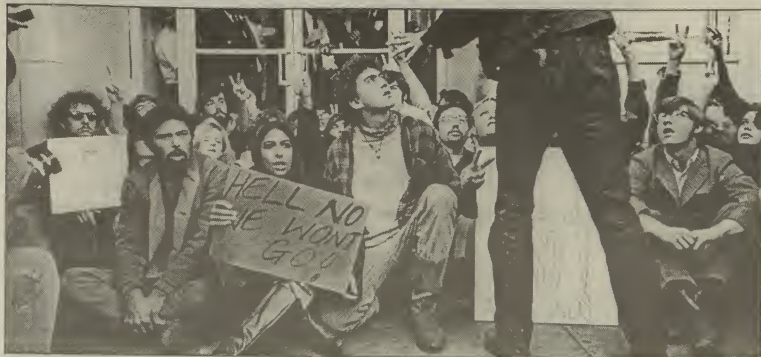
### Couples Club Picnic @ Lake Temescal

Couples Club SF Bay Area, a social club composed of gays and lesbians in committed relationships, hosts its annual picnic at the north end picnic area of Lake Temescal (at juncture of highways 24 and 13) in Oakland. Hamburgers & hot dogs provided by the club. 11am-6pm. Info: 510-793-4283; [www.sfscouples.org](http://www.sfscouples.org)

### Tango Tea Dance @ Synergy School

Queer Ballroom presents a Tango Tea Dance. No partner or experience needed. 3:30pm Argentine Tango Fundamentals les-





**Stop the Draft Week: blocking entrance to Oakland Induction Center, October 1967, part of "What's Going On? — California and the Vietnam Era," a major exhibition at the Oakland Museum of California (10th & Oak streets) opening Saturday, August 28. See [www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org)**

son; 5-9pm Milonga Dance; traditional and contemporary Tango music! \$10 (half off if in weekly classes; free if under 21). Synergy School, 1387 Valencia St. and 25th near 24th. Info: 415-305-8242; [QueerBall-room.com](mailto:QueerBall-room.com)

### Liszt in Leather @ Victorian Engländer House

Enjoy a 35 piece orchestra dressed in "Leather & Street Fair Attire" as the Victorian Engländer House presents the *Liszt in Leather Underground Virtuoso Theatre Orchestra* (aka The San Francisco Concerto Orchestra), made up of professional musicians from all of San Francisco and the greater Bay Area's biggest orchestras. Both gay & straight, they will be dressed in leather & street fair attire. Pianists Seth Montfort, acclaimed for his buff bod as well as his piano prowess, and Philly's piano diva Annette DiMedio will perform Liszt's Piano Concertos Nos. 1 & 2, conducted by the dynamic Geoffrey Gallegos. With Douglas Hein, vocals, and Catherine Matovich, narration. The show promises lots of leather & skin in both the Orchestra & the audience! \$15-\$20. 7pm & 8:30pm. Victorian Engländer House, 807 Franklin St. (at Turk). Info: 415-362-6080; [www.sfcassicalmusic.com](http://www.sfcassicalmusic.com)

### Show of Stars Trilogy @ Marlena's

Absolute Empress VIII Maxine and Absolute Empress XVI Pushy Phyllis present "The Conclusion of a Show of Stars Trilogy," a benefit for the 40th Anniversary of the Council of Emperors. Free admission. 7pm. Marlena's Bar, 482 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 415-864-6672.

## Mon 23

### Lit @ Canvas Gallery

"Lit at the Canvas" presents "Mordid Curiosity in the Fog," in which contributors to *Mordid Curiosity* magazine read their favorite twisted tales that will make you go wow in disbelief. Gravity Goldberg stars in porn; Allegra Lundyworth hallucinates on legal over-the-counter drugs; Claudius Reich survives a terrorist bombing; Jill Tracy begins her morbid career in music; Geoff Walker is out of prison and ready to testify; and newcomer Shauna Rogan joins in the fray. MCed by editor Loren Rhoads. 8:30pm. Canvas Gallery, 9th Ave and Lincoln. Info: [www.lilycat.com](http://www.lilycat.com).

## Tue 24

### Pixies night @ Trannyshack

Gouge away! Be at Trannyshack for their most intense tribute night ever as Rentecca joins Hekina to co-host an evening in honor

of alt-rock touchstones The Pixies. \$7. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud Bar, 9th & Harrison. Info: [www.trannyshack.com](http://www.trannyshack.com)

### Black Men in the Castro @ Magnet

Magnet and Our Love present: "Black Men in the Castro." What's it like for Black Men in the Castro? Come share your experience as a black man in the Castro and hear about the experiences of others. Share it in words, music, poetry, imagery — however you want to get it across. Bring five minutes worth to enlighten those around you. Calvin Gipson (2004 Pride Grand Marshall) will be on hand to moderate the discussion. Light refreshments Free. 7-9:30pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. Info: Our Love at 415-575-0150, x273; or Magnet at 415-581-1605.

### City Baroque Music Festival @ Grace Cathedral

American Bach Solists, led by Music Director Jeffrey Thomas, will present their second annual Summer in the City Baroque Music Festival at Grace Cathedral. The series of four performances will be given Tue-Fri., August 24-27 at 7:30 p.m. each evening. Modeled after the intimate summer concerts offered at cathedrals throughout Europe, ABS's Summer in the City Baroque Music Festival features four exquisite programs of chamber music performed on period instruments—featuring works by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Telemann, and Vivaldi. Grace Cathedral's intimate Chapel of Grace, with its beautiful carvings and 15th century French limestone altar, provides the perfect setting. \$25-\$30. 7:30 p.m. Grace Cathedral, located atop Nob Hill at 1100 California St. (at Taylor). Tix: 415-621-7900; [www.americanbach.org](http://www.americanbach.org). Info: [www.GraceCathedral.org](http://www.GraceCathedral.org)

## Wed 25

### Two Halves, One Whole @ SomArts Gallery

One night only: "Two Halves, One Whole: Exploring Gender Archetypes," curated by Matt McKinley. The essence of gender explored through visual and performing art. Works by 40 local painters, photographers, and sculptors. Live music, poetry and dance performances. "What does it mean to be a woman?" asks curator McKinley. "What does it mean to be a man? In each and every one of us... exists a mental construct which we use as the basis for establishing and understanding our identity... that builds a framework for understanding our relationships, our motivations, our raison d'être — our perception of gender... The artist's depiction of men and women... provides a point of reference for questioning and examining, confirming or celebrat-

ing our similarities, our differences and our shared existence, from the earliest historical interpretations of gender roles through the conceptualization of gender's influence both today and in the future." \$5 suggested donation to benefit Artists Resource. 5-7:30pm. SomArts Gallery, 934 Brannan St. Info: [www.artworksf.com](http://www.artworksf.com)

### Re-Tool and Grind @ EROS

Red & Cole present: Re-Tool and Grind — an FTM open mic (every Last Wednesday of each month). Come early and sign up with your 5-minute piece. Sign up at 6:45, reading at 7 pm. Eros, 2051 Market St.

## Thu 26

### The Get Down — Think Outside the Box @ The Independent

District 5 Supervisor Candidates Michael O'Connor and Robert Haaland invite you to: *The Get Down: Think Outside the Box*. Performers: DJ Page Hodel, DJ David Harness, DJ Pause, The Momma's Boyz, and District 5 Supervisor Candidates Robert Haaland and Michael O'Connor. Proceeds from the event will be shared by both candidates' campaigns. Currently represented by Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, who is not seeking reelection, the District 5 race has a field of over 20 candidates. Club owner and candidate O'Connor says: "Divisadero was home to the legendary 'Box' events, a Thursday night dance club which brought together a wonderfully eclectic mix of San Francisco night life. Young, old, gay, straight, men, women, all races — everyone came to the Box. Robert and I want to bring that inclusiveness back to Divisadero and into District 5 politics as well." DJ Page Hodel, the producer of the Box, will be spinning records for this unusual event. David Harness and DJ Pause will also be at the event. There will also be a special live appearance by The Momma's Boyz, an old-school hip-hop drag-king performance group. Special guest emcee appearance by Tom Ammiano. 9pm-1am. The Independent, 628 Divisadero (at Hayes). Info: [www.moc-d5.com](http://www.moc-d5.com); [www.roberthaaland.com](http://www.roberthaaland.com)

### The Legal Briefs

### & Muy Fuerte @ Off-Market Theater

San Francisco's C.A.F.E. presents The Legal Briefs and Muy Fuerte. The Legal Briefs are Diana Brown, Camp Owens and Howard Stone and newest addition to "the firm" guest artist Jonathan Caplan. They'll take the audience inside a world of law and order, Court TV and personal injury attorneys. They'll present a fully improvised long-form created from the suggestions of the audience turned jury. Also: Italy and Mexico have a long history of working together in long form comedic improv. Come watch Muy Fuerte as these respective improv heroes make Italy and Mexico proud. An evening of made up theater from your suggestions. Come witness the strange improv that can only come from disturbed individuals. After the show, any audience improviser can join in an improv jam with the cast members. \$10. 8pm. 965 Mission St. (at Fifth). Tix/info: 415-896-6477; [www.cafearts.com](http://www.cafearts.com)

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Christopher Walkey stars as Ko Ko in The Lamplighters production of *The Mikado* at Yerba Buena Center. See Saturday.



# Finding the poetic in the prosaic

William Eggleston's pioneering color work at SFMOMA

by Kevin Davis

**N**aming his gorgeously lurid and compelling road-trip photos *Los Alamos*, after New Mexico's lab of inventive destruction, marks the beginning and end of William Eggleston's political curiosity.

Eggleston shot his photographs of deserted rural, working-class Americana on road trips through the Mississippi Delta, New Orleans, Las Vegas and Los Angeles in 1965 through 1974, 88 of which are on view August 21 through January 4 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

The eccentric neutrality of his democratic snapshots resists interpretation, their meaning flouting inquiry. What is with the green tattoo on the tan woman in tobacco-colored skirt with matching cummerbund and knee socks? Why the suspicious scowl on the lady with coordinated carnation-colored housedress, sweater, lips and nails? Could the vehemently heterosexual Eggleston (he carried on a torrid Chelsea Hotel affair with Warhol superstar Viva) find the appeal in the firm-buttocked, filthy-fingernailed, redheaded gasstation jockey beside the orange Gulf Oil sign, his uniform reflecting the pale sky? When he appropriates and isolates these people and abandoned, faded commer-

cial signs, their meaning becomes fugitive, almost postmodern.

Color's richness plays off Eggleston's seeming indifference toward his subject matter. His work contains strains of Mark Rothko's rapturous color fields, the restlessness of Robert Frank photos without Frank's sterility, and the Abstracts' eye for shapes and forms.

Today, representation's dominant force is unremarkable in its universality. John Waters' kitschy aesthetic, Andreas Gursky's monumental depictions of commercial space, and Gus Van Sant's taste for primary-colored agrarian landscapes all owe their acceptance to what the exhibit's curator, Corey Keller, terms Eggleston's original "profound engagement with the vernacular," and his heightened sense of realism.

His privileged upbringing led him to approach photography more as a hobby than a career. Born in 1939, Eggleston grew up in a former cotton plantation mansion in Sumner, Mississippi. After his father died in WWII, he attended military boarding school.

## Consumer reports

Eggleston's detachment informs his impartial approach to everything, even as he celebrates our visual environment's essential, prosaic aspects. He recorded consumer culture's new develop-

ments, exemplified by "Memphis, 1965" (all works' titles are simply a place and a year, or years), in which an Elvis-haired boy pushes shopping carts at a then-novel supermarket, caught in late sunlight.

Though not framed to show working-class subjects as lacking in taste, his photos depict no significant community or social bonding ceremonies. Eggleston did not attempt to witness his direct environment of the historic, vivid Deep South struggling for racial equality. A cynic might argue that rather than maintaining his pose of aiming his camera casually, he pointed it rather calculatedly to evade certain realities.

His economic security proved instrumental in turning color photography into a serious artistic medium, since most artists could not afford color-intense dye-transfer printing equipment, which creates such saturated color, at home. After discovering the process in 1973, Eggleston rendered his cavalier shotgun Leica prints with heightened contrast.

Depression-era photojournalists felt that less light-sensitive color film failed to evince dramatic narratives, an attitude that prevailed in following decades. Eggleston appropriated color film's tacky faults and magnified them into attributes. He first spirited commercial capitalism's color photography into high-art temples in a 1976 [NYC] MoMA show.

Eggleston claims to take a single shot of a subject, as opposed to more intuitive multi-angle shots. His seemingly languorous set-up style belies his minimalist formal framing. You can see it in a silver beehive hairdo lit from above, or sunlight through a cherry-cola bottle on a gleaming black car hood.

The nearby "Context Gallery" includes works of Southern-identified photographers Wright Morris, Lee Friedlander, Elliott Erwitt, Dorothea Lange and Walker



'Memphis, 1965-1968' from *Los Alamos* series, 1965-1974

Photo courtesy of Eggleston Artistic Trust 2004

Evans. Whereas Lange and Evans documented sharecropper shacks and squalor with dignity, Eggleston creates an opposing sense of alienation. The works' purpose remains obscure.

The museum also displays artist Deborah Luster's brightly lit, direct, formal portraits of Angola, Louisiana State prison inmates, which resemble intimate antique

tintypes. Engraved with personal information on the back, they humanize the prisoners, 86% of whom will die in prison. ▼

**William Eggleston: Los Alamos** shows Aug. 21-Jan. 4 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third Street. Call 357-4000 for more info.

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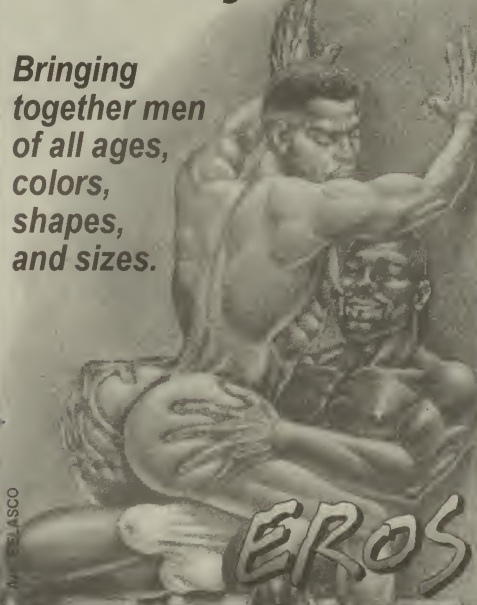
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## She Hate Me

◀ page 37

Taormino replies to the film's critics who dismiss the film as Lee's male jack-off fantasy. "If it's such a male fantasy, why isn't Jack having a better time? Why isn't he salivating like a dog? Like the dog you say all men are? In fact, he's not having a good time. He's very conflicted. I don't see him having the power in these scenes, and I don't see him fulfilling a fantasy."

"It's new territory for a movie, it's new territory for Spike and the men we've seen in Spike's films," she says. "I couldn't see this in the original script, but Anthony Mackie just embodied that, a new, more vulnerable masculinity."

The most hotly contested part of the film is the ending, which has Mackie's Jack winding up in some new kind of family with Fatima, Alex and their two kids. Taormino remembers the first draft she read. "In the original script, it's much clearer that by the end, Alex, Fatima and Jack would all be involved romantically and sexually. There was a sex scene between the three of them. It was very clear. For me, it raised a red flag, because I felt like, 'We're falling into that stereotype: in the end, the straight man gets the two lesbians. I worked with Spike to think of alternative endings.

Maybe if they could have another kind of relationship, a relationship that could be loving, that could be committed, but not necessarily physical or sexual. I don't buy it from these two women characters. They're clearly committed to one another, and I don't buy that they want to have a physical or sexual relationship with him."

Spike Lee says that the original ending of *She Hate Me* was just a first draft. Co-screenwriter Michael Genet says, "My original ending had Anthony getting them all together for a reunion, and they're on the beach watching the women in their happiness just being the mothers that they had struggled so long to be. But Spike was really adamant about wanting to create the possibility of a new nuclear family. So he wanted to have this thing where Jack gets with Fatima and Alex, forming a new family. It wasn't our intention to imply that the lesbians needed a man to be mothers."

## Screen test

Taormino has tested the film with lesbians audiences around the country and found that their reactions to the revised ending vary widely. "There are audiences who say Jack's clearly like the divorced father where he's coming to pick up the kids for the weekend. And other people say, 'Oh, they're all fucking and living to-

gether."

Lee told me that at no point in the process did he consider having a gay male character anywhere in the film's crazy mix. I asked Lee if he thought there was a film about the "down-low" subculture.

"There's definitely a movie there, but here's the problem. The stigma with being homosexual is still so high, still so prevalent in the African American community, that these men have deluded themselves into thinking that they're straight. They will look Jesus in the eye, swear on a stack of 10 Bibles, even though they're engaging in sex with other men, that they're still straight. I don't understand it. That's not the thing that is bad. The thing that is bad is that they're having unprotected sex with these men, and then having sex with their wives or girlfriends. That's why African American women have the highest rates of AIDS of any group in America. It's epidemic!"

Lee says he'll read any script dealing with "the down-low," but he's dubious about raising a significant amount of money to make a major film on the subject. He repeated his earlier doubts that major black actors could be counted on to kiss and act out sexually with other men on screen. ▼

Opens Friday.



## BOOKS

# Malibu Barbie

by Jim Piechota

Star by Pamela Anderson; Atria Books, \$24

After a slew of *Playboy* spreads, self-help magazine columns, bikini-ed television roles, and countless giggly appearances on *The Howard Stern Show*, what does a Canadian bleach blonde with double-Ds do for fun, in an age when just about every scandal and deviant slice of behavior has been done a dozen times over? She writes a book!

Well, it's not exactly Pam Anderson writing, but more the work of ghostwriter Eric Shaw Quinn typing, and Pam anxiously looking over his shoulder cooing, "Yeah, yeah, that's exactly what happened." It was actually mega-publisher Simon and Schuster who approached the 37-year-old blonde bombshell with an idea to write a *roman à clef*. Her response: "Who's that?"

Immediately afterward, a two-book deal was inked. The first of the two contracted books is *Star*, a slick, surprisingly absorbing autobiographical novel about a pretty, small-town girl named Esther Wood Leigh, and her ascent from a peaceful life waiting tables and "burning hair" in the idyllic Florida Keys to the heights of Hollywood as a centerfold and all-around public obsession.

Star is also the name of Anderson's 15-year-old golden retriever, but the similarities end there. The Star in the novel is at first glance painfully naive ("all teeth and a halo"), but once she arrives in Los Angeles (after a hilarious airport scene), it's all sunshine, rocker sex, and boob implants. Along the way, Star gets read by a drag queen, has sex on the Hollywood sign, and scores parts on the new hit sitcom *Hammer Time and Lifeguards*, then scores some lesbian action.

Lots of reader fill-in-the-blank opportunities arise as Star begins



From bikini education to the literary life: Star author Pamela Anderson's pin-up inside book-jacket.

to meet some of Hollywood's pseudonymous royalty: a premature-ejaculating TV star (Scott Baio?), a domineering mother and her muscular son (Jackie and Sylvester Stallone?). If you've paid even a little attention to Anderson's career via the tabloids, a majority of the celebrities she's "encountered" are given cameos —

thinly-veiled, of course.

Though hardly destined to be the blockbuster bestselling book of the summer, *Star* does demonstrate Anderson's knack for dirty brilliance. This bubbly, sexy story is only halfway finished, judging from

the open ending. So it goes without saying that everyone should take this book with a grain of salt — preferably, salt that's encircling an overflowing margarita glass. Drink this book in. Pam would want you to rock with her. ▼

# Chop shop

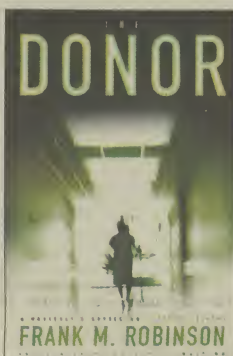
by Robert Julian

The Donor by Frank M. Robinson; Forge Books, \$24.95

San Francisco author Frank M. Robinson's latest thriller, *The Donor*, opens in San Francisco and bounces back and forth between Boston and Alaska as its hero, Dennis Heller, tries to figure out who's been stealing his internal organs. Not once, but twice, Heller has been hospitalized for an alleged emergency surgery which ultimately leaves him bereft of a kidney, then part of his liver. The second time around, in San

Francisco's Mission District, Heller decides to get to the bottom of the situation. The search will leave a string of dead bodies in its wake.

*The Donor* is a genre thriller involving an extremely wealthy Boston businessman with a terminal illness known as Paschke's disease. After the age of 40, the internal organs start to fail, one by one, until the patient dies. The businessman cleverly sets up Heller as his involuntary donor, and the goal of Robinson's novel is to weave a compelling story around the bizarre personal experiences of his protagonist. In short, the narrative involves adoption, pay-offs, genetic engineer-



ing, and *grand mal* manipulation. All the details unfold as Heller searches for his personal holy grail: the secret behind his birth and the harvesting of his organs.

Robinson's plot is unfortunately rather transparent (i.e.: if you haven't figured out the whole setup by page 50, you might as well donate your own brain to an organ bank, because it clearly isn't doing anything for you). Robinson keeps the story moving at a nice clip, and his prose is workmanlike, if uninspired. Fans of thrillers will find *The Donor* to be a competent example of the genre. Others should look elsewhere for literary stimulation.

# Still waters

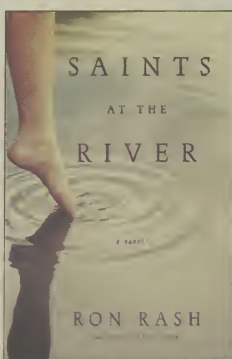
by Robert Julian

Saints at the River by Ron Rash; Henry Holt & Co., \$24

Ron Rash's second novel, *Saints at the River*, is as steeped in the traditions of the American South as the work of William Faulkner and Pat Conroy. Every event is pregnant with echoes of the past, especially as it relates to family, the land (Katy Scarlett), or in this case, the river.

Here, Rash writes a first-person narrative in the voice of Maggie Glenn, a 28-year-old newspaper photographer who grew up in a small South Carolina town on the banks of the Tamassee River. When a young girl drowns in the river, Maggie's editor sends her and a fellow journalist to cover the story. The dead girl's body remains trapped in a deep eddy of the river, and recovering it will not only place divers in danger, but will violate the environmental protections afforded the river under Federal law. Returning to her hometown to cover this story, Maggie is thrown into contact and conflict with her family and friends from her childhood.

Rash's experience as a poet and writer of short stories is put to good use in *Saints at the River*. An



economy of words and a skill with metaphors and similes permeate the work, elevating it above standard. Major themes include duty, family, personal and professional responsibility, and the relative nature of morality. In the face of a crisis, Maggie and many of those around her must come to terms with their pasts and how they inform both the future and the present. *Saints at the River* is moody, contemplative, and mournful in a way those intimately familiar with the South will immediately recognize. Ron Rash's prose voice is not only appropriate to his subject matter, but authentic. ▼

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# Leather in the redwoods

## SF Leather Sir & boy chosen at Fife's

by Mister Marcus

The theme for the Northern California Leather Sir/boy contest this year was "The Great Outdoors," so HRDR Productions took it literally and the contest this past Saturday night, August 14 was held in the redwood grove behind Fife's Roadhouse Resort on the Russian River.

Visitors and natives alike seemed to forget how cold it gets up at the Russian River area at night, so bonfires were going strong and the audience was huddled together in a manner reminiscent of an igloo. Except for a few minor light and sound glitches, the audience was treated to entertainment by the fabulous "Joshua," the naughty, naughty Tom Orr and had not one but FOUR people sharing the master of ceremonies tasks: Midori, Frank Nowicki, Int'l. Leather Sir Mike Russell and Lenny Broberg. They all did a great job, once they got the script down pat.

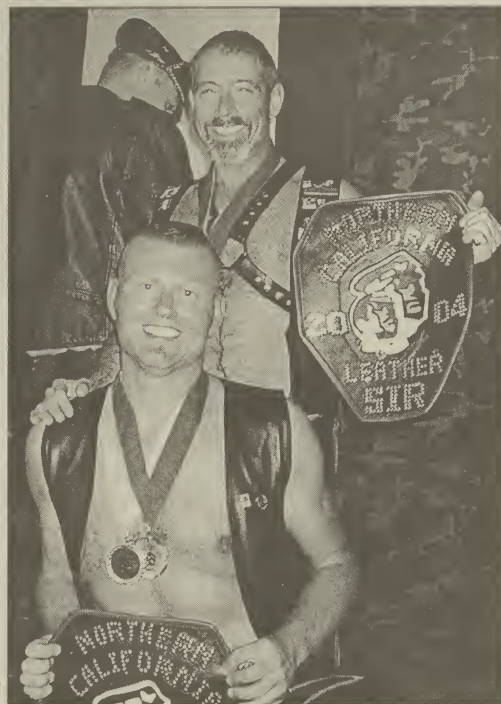
The highlight of the meet-&-greet function on Friday night was a celebration of the 50th birthday of Mike Zuhl, owner of the Int'l. Leather Sir/boy contests. There was a cake, of course — and thank God, no ice cream!

The judges and contestants were hard to find in the darkness but managed to "connect" in the proper protocol way.

Face to face on Saturday morning, the contestants were: Mr. SF Sir/boy Tom Braddock and boy Philip Nickerson; Russian River Leather Sir/boy Mike (woof!) Bernard and boy Lawrence Cabral; and Sacramento Leather Sir Jim Austin and boy Jon Lopez. All were ready for the "dreaded" interview.

It was a pleasure for me to judge with former Drummer men Ray Perea, Jeffrey Adler and Frazier Picard and former Drummer boy Woodie Barnes, the current Int'l. Leather Boy "Titus", and outgoing No. Calif. Sir/boy Brian Williams and Roger Hunt.

A lot of laughter emanating from the interview room put the contestants at ease. Tally masters Dan Alexander and Darryl Jans-



SF Leather Sir Tom Braddock and SF Leather boy Philip Nickerson became Northern California Leather Sir and boy at the competition at the Russian River Saturday, August 14. They go on to compete for the International title in St. Petersburg, Florida in October.

son wasted little time cranking out the scores during and in the final analysis.

The interviews, speeches, image, fantasies and physique categories were a breeze, with one fantasy utilizing a major SF leather titleholder in "camp drag" — pink wig and all! I was in shock all night.

The Divine "Joshua" was superb as always, and that naughty, naughty boy with the humorous "appendage", Tom Orr, started out his act in a farmer's coveralls outfit. From there he went to a shiny drag diva, then down to a snow white jockstrap, and then all that was left was his hula-hoop size cockring. He was singing through-

out and bantering insanely about this-a and that-a. I would say he "brought the house down," but with towering redwood trees, I don't think it would have been a welcome sight!

The audience loved them both. Roger, David and Ray of HRDR Productions presented a check for almost \$4,000 to Camp Sunburst and, unlike some ungrateful San Francisco charitable organizations, the Exec. Director of Sunburst was actually there to receive the loot!

In a poignant setting (once again), the "Best Boy Award" was given to Tyler Fong of the SF Boys of Leather, who seems to be the only member of the SFBOL doing anything these days. We do have a chapter here, don't we?

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Friday, August 20

In Sacramento, Mr. Bolt Leather John Yant hosts a "Beating the Doors Open" benefit from 2000 to 2400 at the Bolt Bar. For info: MrBoltLeather@pacbell.net.

Julian Marshburn steps aside as Daddy's Mr. Leather tonight at around 2100. The contest will choose a leather man to compete at Mr. SF Leather in September. Applications available from any bartender. Hope to see you there!

Exiles of SF present "Staple Guns: Not Just for Wood Anymore" at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930, program at 2000. Lousy parking. \$3 for members and \$6 for guests.

### Saturday, August 21

Mr. Powerhouse Leather will be chosen tonight at that world-famous bar for Damon Holzum's replacement. Applications available now. Don't miss this event.

### Sunday, August 22

What next? Try "Liszt in Leather," a concert with a 35-piece orchestra in full leather and other fetish attire! It happens at Victorian Englander House (807 Franklin @ Turk St.) at 1900 and again at

2030. Tickets are \$15-\$25. For details surf to [www.sfclassicalmusic.com](http://www.sfclassicalmusic.com).

### Weekend, August 27-29

Two more regional Leather Sir/boy competitions: one in Indianapolis for Great Lakes Leather Sir/boy (check [www.greatlakesleather.com](http://www.greatlakesleather.com)), and another in Seattle for Northwest Leather Sir/boy. I'll be in Indianapolis.

### Saturday, August 28

Mr. Leather Nebraska contest in Omaha, put on by the Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO).

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location, with a \$15 donation requested. For more info call 673-0452 or go to: [www.the15association.org](http://www.the15association.org).

Pacific West Mr. Bootblack "Bootdog" hosts "bootblacks, buzzcuts and Bingo" at the Eagle from 1900 to 2300. A \$7 beer/soda bust, \$10 bootshines, \$12 buzz cuts and Bingo! All to benefit Magnet.

### Sunday, August 29

The 15 Association hosts Beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500-1800 today. There's food, and someone is going to get spanked!



# Eros meets art

by John F. Karr

Tom Bianchi's new collection of photographs, *On the Couch Volume 2* (Bruno Gmunder Publishers, \$39.95) is, like the first, such a gorgeous exploration of our erotic beauty that you think, "Wouldn't it be incredible if these were stills from a movie?" Well, they are stills from a movie, which is now available in an inspiring DVD set, *On the Couch Volumes 1 & 2* (Mercury Releasing, \$49.95).

Even a porn dog such as myself (or perhaps particularly such a person) will agree when Mr. Bianchi opens the DVD with a calm condemnation. "I found material meant to stimulate us sexually to be too often numbingly one-dimensional and badly made," he says. And after diagnosing the condition, Bianchi delivers the cure. It's better than penicillin.

Nearly 15 years ago, Bianchi's first collections of nude male photography had a revolutionary effect, breaking rank with the prevailing man-as-icon, fashion shoot impersonality to offer affectionately playful depictions of naked men. His current work does the same for erotica.

No, he didn't set out to make porn. But what he made shows us exactly what is missing from nearly all of our porn. In looking for what he variously calls "liberation," "higher consciousness" and "sacred energy," for encouraging his models to seek passionately emotional and romantic connections, and for then finding it in the lens of his camera, his work is a gift. "We wanted to create the most beautiful, intelligent conversation on the subject there is," he says. And he has.

A great lover of cock, Bianchi glorifies them as Mr. Ziegfeld once did the American Girl. He brings great art to the jack-off solo. There's much luxurious cocksucking, but no fucking. You won't notice. The seven models in DVD 1 include Joey, whose gloriously full head of black hair makes me think he should have played Helen in



Bianchi blows the top off erotic filmmaking in *On the Couch Volumes 1, 2*.

the recent film saga of *Troy* — then we'd never have doubted what all the fighting was for. Joey and Jeffrey sport some kinky fashionwear, most especially a killer mesh codpiece. Brett is cute and manly, a beguiling combination. Ten men appear in *Volume 2*. Rob works a pair of see-through undies, and Peter, who wants to be a slave, works a military look. He chokes his dick in tight rope bondage, and

brings the movie to not one but two gut-wrenching explosions that are a fitting climax for these volumes. Peter blows the top off his dick, and Mr. Bianchi blows the top off erotic filmmaking. These movies put the porn industry to shame for its rote repetition of the mechanics of sex. Bianchi looks past that, searching for and finding its heart.

## Flash forward

A major criticism is the many disruptive manipulations of technique Mr. Bianchi has applied. While the digital technology that was employed eliminated the heavy lighting of regular filmmaking, there are constant and startling flashes, as if a strobe were popping. The image keeps whisking off screen to the left, as if we were watching a slide show. Unnecessary

spoken words intrude: "That's so gorgeous." Well, duh. Worst is that the crisp, lush color image keeps changing to a fuzzy and obscuring sepia-toned black-and-white. More of this movie is in frigging black-and-white than in color! All this whiz-bang seems contrary to the project's stated aim. Does all this artsy-fartsy tell us we're not watching porn? Again, duh.

In its book form, *On the Couch Volume 2* is as expensively and handsomely produced as the first. Printed in Italy on thick, glossy stock, the photographs have lustrous color, and, more to the point, are rich with the bonding of models to each other, and of the models with the photographer. Some 25 men appear in the book. As in the movies, there's a variety of racial identities, with ages ranging from frisky pup to salt 'n' peppered Daddy. In solos and differently numbered groupings, their sexuality ranges from straightforward vanilla to straightforward kink. There's lots of underwear tease, fetishistic leather gear, and edgy rope-play. Commendably, Mr. Bianchi appears in the photos as well as the films.

*On the Couch* is obviously the bridge between art and porn. Now, if Bianchi would cut the crap — I mean, the artistic manipulations — and deliver the sex straight up, we'd have the artful pornography that even its creator seems to crave. Meanwhile, enjoy these transporting films and photographs. ▼

## Mister Marcus

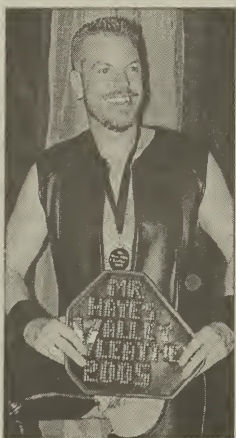
◀ previous page

When all the announcements, thank-yous, and tributes to all the volunteers and sponsors were done, the moment of truth arrived.

Ms. Joshua serenaded the six aspirants with an uplifting ditty that was so superb, there was an encore demand.

The tally masters delivered the envelopes to MC Lenny Broberg as Mike (woof!) Bernard was announced as the 1st runner-up Sir, and Jon Lopez was announced as the 1st runner-up, boy. Loud cheering ensued! Then the moment everyone was avidly waiting for: Northern California Leather boy Philip Nickerson and Northern California Leather Sir, Tom Braddock.

It was a good show all around, including the victory brunch on Sunday and the judges/sponsors/invited guests dinner on Saturday evening. There, Richie Chameroy charmed all in attendance with some stunning flute renditions, some originals he wrote and some "standard" ones. It was absolutely thrilling to hear him display his award-winning enthusiasm and talent.



Jay Harcourt is Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2005, recently chosen at Marlena's Bar. He will be one of the Mr. SF Leather 2005 contestants in September on the night before the Folsom Street Fair.

Sir Tom Braddock and boy Philip Nickerson will represent Northern California at the International finals in St. Petersburg,

Florida on Columbus Day weekend. Good luck to all.

## Dot, dot, dot . . . dish

No one told me about the bear community's Harrison Street Fair until four days before it happened — and after my deadline! I don't know why the Bears of San Francisco (BOSF) aren't sending out press releases anymore either. Harrumph!

Overheard on the 47 Muni Bus on Sunday, uttered by two over-cologned queens: "This town has too many title holders, street fairs and fundraisers and none of them are fun." Oh really? Well, why don't you two go back to Bum-Phuck, Kansas if you feel that way!!

That "Harpoonist from Dallas" was in town again last weekend terrorizing both "tops and bottoms" (he's a "switch" you know). No doubt he will scare the hell out of the Indianapolis populace next weekend when he travels there for the Great Lakes Leather Sir/boy contest to satisfy his curiosity about the LS/boy competition and his own personal lust.

Reminder: The SF Leather Boy XXII will be chosen on Sunday, Sep. 5th at the Eagle. Any worthy boys out there? Think about it. ▼

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**Cuddly Bear Type**  
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**ASIAN**  
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**Pumpers - Biguns, Wet Vers**  
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**Spanker For Over The Knee Fun**  
Have butt, will travel. Strip me naked, put me over your knee. No sex. Can do scenes. Will reciprocate if wanted. Age unimportant. Me: Smooth, blue eyes, 159 #, 5'6". ☎ 71358

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Seeking gay or straight males 18-35 for hot safe sex here in SF. GBM, 53, 5'10, 200lbs., arms 17", muscle chest 50", aggressive dominate man. ☎ 71354

**"Ass and Nipples"**  
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I'll motivate and serve while you play with 3rd guy. I am trim, older and obedient. ☎ 71374

# BAR TALK

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- Others

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

**MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103**



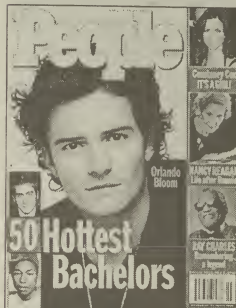
## PERSONALS

## Out There

◀ page 34

trip!

Speaking of bounteous beauties, we can't let the summer go by without comment on *People* magazine's **50 Hottest Bachelors** issue. Coverboy **Orlando Bloom**



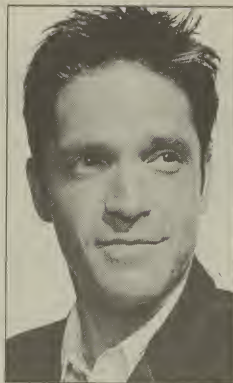
Greater Orlando, before Crusades

is indeed a classic beauty for the ages, but what's he doing in that upcoming, icky *Crusades* movie?

Number of the hottest 50 who may in fact be confirmed bachelors, if you know what we mean: at least half-a-dozen. Number of the hot 50 who confirm it themselves: 2. Stylist/actor **Phillip Bloch** says, "I'm pretty chatty. I drive all my boyfriends crazy," while sexy jazz sax player **Dave Koz** admits, "I'm kicking myself, wishing I had come out sooner." Sophisticated lady!

## Teeny Beenie

Music clubs in Pittsburgh and Indianapolis did the right thing and canceled scheduled appearances last week by homophobic Jamaican dancehall singer **Moses 'Beenie Man' Davis** after complaints surfaced that his music incites violence against gays.



Sexy jazz sax player Dave Koz

In full damage-control mode, his record company put these words in Beenie's mouth: "It has come to my attention that certain lyrics and recordings I have made in the past may have caused distress and outrage. I did not write them with the intent of purposefully hurting or maligning others."

The UK *Guardian* dryly observed: "Considering that the songs in question called for 'fag-gots' to be 'wiped out,' and that Davis had 'come to execute all the gays,' it's easy to see how this confusion arose."

"With hate crime banished, Davis is free to explore other lyrical topics. This turns out to be a mixed blessing. Dispiritingly, he has only one other lyrical topic: his penis. He calls his penis 'tackle,' 'fishing line,' 'lead pipe,' 'full length,' 'stiffy,' 'big water pipe' and even 'Mr. Johnny.' He calls it his 'third leg,' which his accent renders as 'turd leg.' After a while, you feel like begging Davis to once more share his enlightened views on homosexuality, in the desperate hope that this will stop him talking about his cock." ▼

# BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

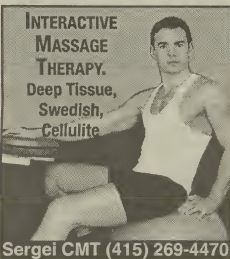
## MASSAGE



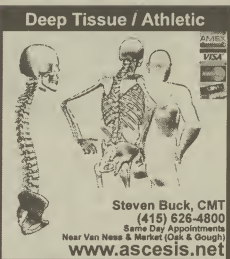
**XAVIER**  
310.926.9918  
MESSAGEBYX@AOL.COM  
IN/OUT



**STRONG SENSITIVE HANDS**  
NON-SEXUAL  
**DEEP TISSUE / SWEDISH MASSAGE**  
BROCK 517-5749



**INTERACTIVE MASSAGE THERAPY.**  
Deep Tissue, Swedish, Cellulite  
**Sergei CMT (415) 269-4470**



**Deep Tissue / Athletic**  
Steven Buck, CMT  
(415) 626-4800  
Same Day Appointments  
Near Van Ness & Market (Oak & Gough)  
www.ascesis.net



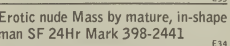
**Michael CMT**  
415-235-8805  
Swedish Massage  
Nurturing, Therapeutic



**Personal Touch**  
Therapeutic & Erotic  
Deep, Satisfying Massage  
Certified & Discreet  
Daniel 626-4192 Even/Weekends



**SEXY ASIAN**  
\$60 Jim 269-5707



Erotic nude Mass by mature, in-shape man SF 24Hr Mark 398-2441



**YOUNG SMOOTH TENDER ASIAN**  
IN OUT \$60  
**DAVE 567-7693**



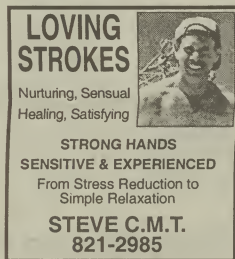
**BODYWORK BY ASIAN**  
CMT 5'6", 130, sensual full body, real massage. In/Out. 218-0128



**Jay**  
Swedish Massage CMT  
415-407-9424  
Has 10am-7pm Monday-Sunday  
jjwagner70@hotmail.com



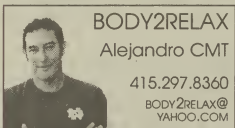
**Michael CMT**  
812 6929  
Swedish Reiki  
Professional Massage Therapy



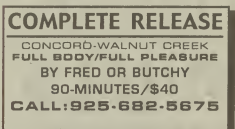
**LOVING STROKES**  
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**STRONG HANDS SENSITIVE & EXPERIENCED**  
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AUTHENTIC THAI BODYWORK  
THERAPEUTIC 13 DEEP TISSUE  
415.252.8126  
www.thairubkrup.com



**BODY2RELAX**  
Alejandro CMT  
415.297.8360  
BODY2RELAX@YAHOO.COM



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CONCORD-WALNUT CREEK  
FULL BODY/FULL PLEASURE  
BY FRED OR BUTCHY  
90-MINUTES/\$40  
CALL: 925-682-5675



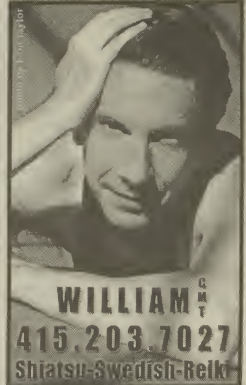
**EBAY BEEFY MUSCL**  
Gives good deep Swedish!  
Mas, hairy, 195, 5'11", 45, must.  
M-F aft 5, w/e OK-Rlx-Table/Oil  
In \$60/60, \$90/90 510-601-6995



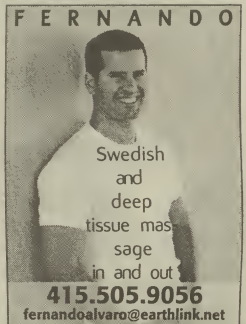
**ACHING FOR A MASSAGE**  
Deep, rich, relaxing, strong therapeutic massage for in-shape guys by 29 yr old. Student discount, in/out calls, day/eve and late nite apptmts avail.  
Eric • 841-5870.



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John (510) 658-2437. In/Out



**WILLIAM**  
415.203.7027  
Shiatsu-Swedish-Reiki



**FERNANDO**  
Swedish and deep tissue massage in and out  
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**ROY MASSAGE**  
Swedish Deep Tissue Relaxing  
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Warm + comfortable space  
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Empower Yourself Thru Supportive, Sensual, Nurturing and Healing Touch  
**Jack Walder, CMT**  
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**NEIL**  
Excellence in Santa Rosa  
707-586-1826  
WWW.GR8RUBS.COM



**joseph chang LAC, CMT**  
Deep Tissue Acupressure  
415.626.6189  
www.houseofqi.com



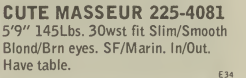
**IT'S A GUY THING**  
Swed. massage for your male body Castro. In \$39. Peter • 298-3309



**FEEL THE DIFFERENCE**  
Strong, energetic and athletic. Ferdinando CMT (510) 325-7725. In/Out



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28, 5'8", 145, Silky XXX Smooth  
\$80 In/100 Out, Call Hung 948-7244



**CUTE MASSEUR 225-4081**  
5'9" 145Lbs. 30wst fit Slim/Smooth  
Blond/Brown eyes. SF/Marin. In/Out.  
Have table.

ADRIAN, MYSTERIOUS D, MR. ANTHONY & SUPPOSITORI SPELLING spin an ass-shaking mix of BASTARD POP, ELECTRO, HIPHOP, ROCK



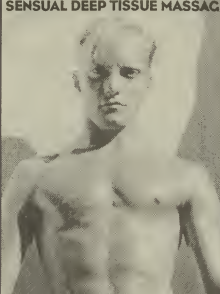
**GUILTY**

FRIDAYS at THE STUD 9th & Harrison • 10pm - 3am • \$5




## MASSAGE

**SENSUAL DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE**



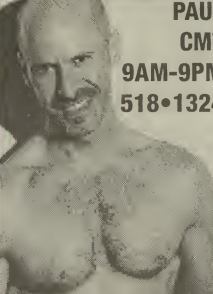
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JOHNNIE 415.661.8374

**SCOTT**



**CMT**  
SWEDISH/DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE  
www.SOMAHANDS.COM  
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**PAUL**  
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Massage  
today!  
Twin Peaks  
above the  
Castro  
to Park  
See Web to  
save \$10.  
\$10  
195lb  
with Passport



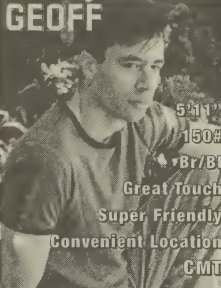
Danny 647-9777  
AGreatMassage.org

**JR CMT**



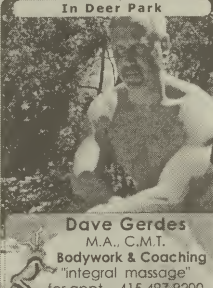
**IN/OUT**  
10AM-10PM  
415-724-8543

**GEOFF**



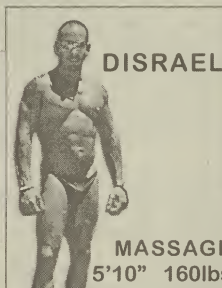
5'11"  
150#  
Br/Bt  
Great Touch  
Super Friendly  
Convenient Location  
CMT  
415-863-6420

**In Deer Park**

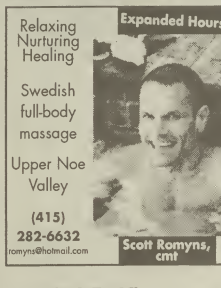


Dave Gerdes  
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**CHAI**  
5'11" MUSCULAR  
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TOTALLY RELAXING  
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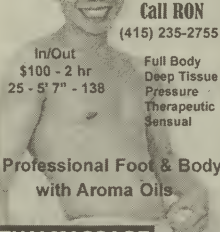


**Expanded Hours**



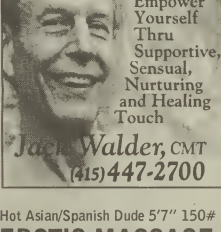
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Nurturing  
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romyns@hotmail.com  
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Thru  
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Sensual,  
Nurturing  
and Healing  
Touch  
Jack Walder, CMT  
(415) 447-2700

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Erotic Massage**



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**MASSAGE**  
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disraelic@yahoo.com

**HEALING EDGE**  
Lesbian offers healing massage.  
8 yrs exp w/chronic tension, body  
issues, travel recovery.  
Safe, confidential • 415-821-2643

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Superb very personal massage plus  
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Spa and Massage Getaway Packages.  
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Str8 acting 23 yo, horny & friendly  
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Steamin' hot, nude erotic touch & skilled,  
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hr=\$85 90 mins=\$100 2hrs=\$120  
Heron Saline, CMT Also by pre-  
arrangement: Hypnotic massage, neo-  
tantra & hot deep prostate\* your  
mini-vacation melt down\* 415-706-  
9740

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Sensual massage done in the nude by  
masculine endowed mature masseur  
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Erotic nude massage masculine  
friendly handsome Latino 28yo 24/7  
158 lbs in/out call Max 441-2854

**TRIP TO XTASY!!!**  
BUNS & LEGS, NOOKS &  
CRANNYS, MY SPECIALTY  
Hotman 48'6", 165#, S&P beard,  
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\$5. Call Dick 415-244-8828

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Swedish Acupressure Thai Tui Na  
Deep Tissue In \$50 Out \$60  
WC/PH Area Gary 925-787-9293

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8 yrs. exp. w/ chronic tension,  
body issues, trauma recovery.  
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**SJ SF EB ASIAN CMT**  
VGL masc GAM, 33/5'6"/150/6.5.  
Sensual full body acupressure &  
Shiatsu massage w/release done  
nude, Therapeutic too. In/Out.  
Call Smooth Doug 408-202-0811.

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Jim de Masseur • 415-621-4517

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Body shaving. Body Electric exper. by  
well-built, sexy stud. \$55\*Out Extra.  
707-865-2093 Bob.

**TRY MASTER OF TOUCH**  
Need to unwind? 1/2 hr. notice OK.  
Nude, Erotic, Therapeutic, Tantric  
Lean Musc, smooth chest, strong.  
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**NAPA, VERY BEST  
DEEP TISSUE**  
Swedish massage. Beautiful hillside  
location. David CMT 707.738.9577

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body issues, trauma recovery.  
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14+ yrs exp, Full Tension Release  
• **MID-PENINSULA-CMT** •  
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**RESPECTFULLY SENSUAL**  
Professional Massage Performed  
in the nude allowing mutual  
touch & release. Visa/MC/Amex  
Steven, CMT (415) 626-4800  
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By sexy muscular guy. Massimo  
Page me: 208-0081.

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Great Nude Massage. 290-2041, \$60

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Peninsula Therapeutic and Erotic  
In/Out. Full Body TLC 650-367-7528  
Sexy blonde will rub U down  
**HOT EURO BOY**  
Horny 24yobottom/smooth 5'7" 135#  
In/Out Calls - Jason 415-210-1526

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Peaceful Warrior Workshop,  
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Excellent massage by experienced  
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Magical Massage Mastery that  
heals while it pleases from a  
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Excellent full-body Swedish/Sensual  
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Tall lean CMT in S.F. for 1 week  
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**HOT C.M.T.**  
Excellent massage by experienced  
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**NUDE EROTIC MASSAGE**  
By sexy muscular guy. Massimo  
Page me: 208-0081.

**GREAT MASSAGE**  
Tall lean CMT in S.F. for 1 week  
8/19-8/25 Low rate 925-890-6833

**HEALING EDGE**  
Lesbian offers healing massage.  
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Safe, Confidential. 415-821-2643



## PERSONALS

## MASSAGE

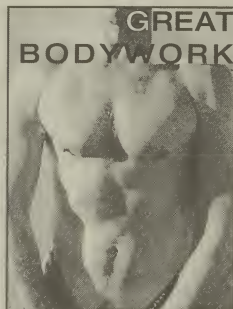
**BODY • INSIGHT**



Experienced Hands Provide Integrated Swedish, Sports, Deep Tissue Massage with a Sensitive Approach.

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**GREAT BODYWORK**



NUDE, EROTIC MASSAGE BY WELL BUILT, WELL HUNG, MASC. GDLK/MAN.

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Swedish Full-body  
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**James CMT**

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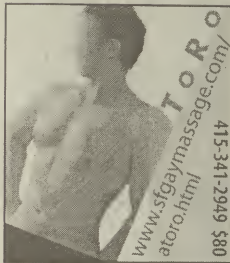
swedish,  
deep tissue  
& reflexology  
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**David CMT**

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**TORO**  
www.sfgaymassage.com  
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Superb very personal massage plus fantasies explored by mature masseur in remote country setting. Also, group massages and Overnight and Daytime Spa and Massage Getaway Packages. Roger 707-525-1771 www.sr-hideaway.com

**COMPLETE FULL BODY**  
Sensual massage done in the nude by masculine endowed mature masseur at your place. Chuck • (510)388-4941

**SJ SF EB ASIAN CMT**  
VGL masc GAM, 33/5'6"/150/6.5. Sensual full body acupressure & Shiatsu massage w/release done nude. Therapeutic too. In/Out. Call Smooth Doug 408-202-0811.

Peninsula Therapeutic and Erotic In/Out. Full Body TLC 650-367-7528

Sexy blonde will rub U down  
**HOT EURO BOY**  
Horny 24yobottom/smooth 5'7" 135#  
In/Out Calls - Jason 415-210-1526

www.handsontouch.org  
**SACRED TOUCH**  
Intentional Focused Eroticism  
Derek, CMT 415-255-1164

Magical Massage Mastery that heals while it pleasures from a CMT who knows how to electrify the body. Oak Greg 510-547-1364

**ENERGYBODYCENTER.COM**  
Integrative bodywork Kirk Prine  
www.fleshandspirit.org/kp2.html

Hot Asian/Spanish Dude 5'7" 150#  
**EROTIC MASSAGE**  
Str8 acting 23 yo, horny & friendly  
In/Out calls - Nick 415-690-6552

**SEXY SOCCER PLAYER**  
Erotic nude massage masculine friendly handsome Latino 28yo 24/7 158 lbs in/out call Max 441-2854

**GIVE ME YOUR BODY**  
for 1 hour. Let go. Feel the need. Castro. In \$39. Peter • 298-3309

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www.tgpraxis.net 415-505-8980

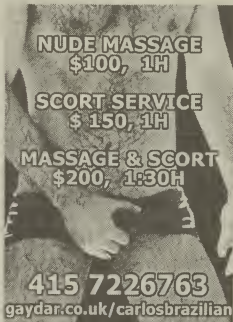
**MASSAGE BY MUSCLED DUDE**  
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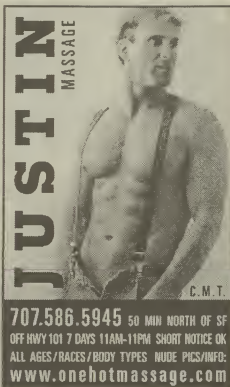
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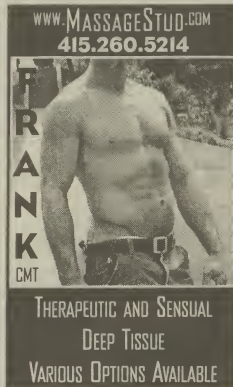
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Slim/Smooth  
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Have table

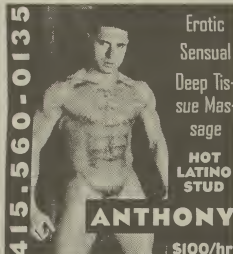
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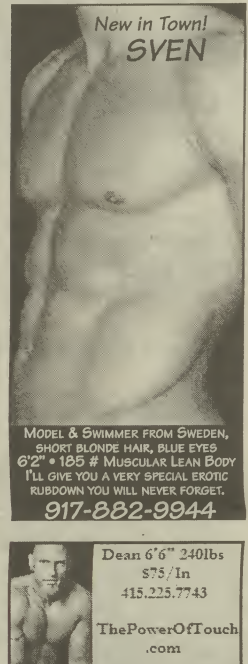
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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2004  
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

BOOK YOUR AD SPACE NOW FOR THE  
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ANNUAL FOLSOM STREET FAIR ISSUE.  
STREET DATE: SEPT. 23RD!

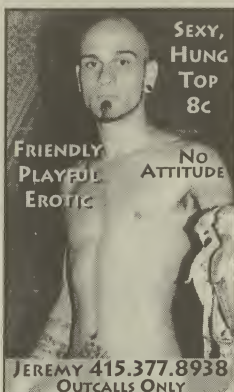
Display Ads Deadline:  
Friday, September 17th, 5pm  
Line Ads Deadline:  
Monday, September 20th, Noon

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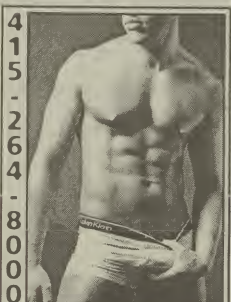
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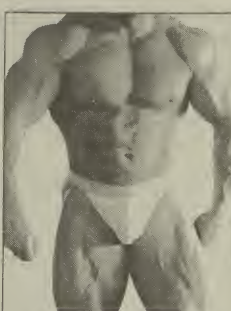
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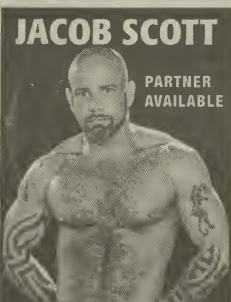
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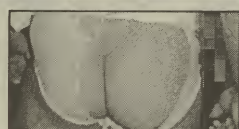
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BAY AREA  
REPORTER  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

## OR FAX TO:

415.861.8144



## PEOPLE

\*Spanking Over Daddy's Knee\*  
Experienced, Safe, Role-play/Real  
415-864-2766 Beginners welcome.

**WANTED - MELVIN GRAY**  
Reward for information and  
location of Melvin Gray and  
1993 Toyota Tercel. Ex Kaiser em-  
ployee. Jerry 510-530-1800.

GWM needs young under 5'7" for  
mate. Horny, hungry, homeless? Pic  
and note to Jangel, Gen. Del., Phx.,  
Or 97535 Or Call 1-541-301-3289  
@9pm

**PETER  
I LOVE YOU  
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY 32  
STEVE**

CONGRATULATIONS TO:  
**TOM BRADDOCK**  
NO. CALIF. LEATHER SIR 2004 &  
**BOY PHILIP**  
NO. CALIF. LEATHER BOOY 2004  
& GOOD LUCK at the International  
Leather Sir/boy finals in St. Peters-  
burg Florida in October!!

**STRIP AND SHOW**  
Let older man see, feel your physical  
beauty. Please be handsome, very  
trim or muscular and Under 50.  
510-601-9569. Be friendly! Thanks.

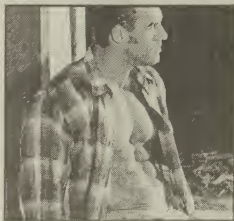
Local Men Sexdate: 888-788-8989

Body Trim & Shave "Castro Area Lo-  
cation". Call 4 apptmt + 626-1168

**MR. SAN FRANCISCO  
LEATHER CONTEST IS ON  
SATURDAY, SEP. 25TH.**  
You can enter the competition with-  
out going through a bar contest! You  
can enter without a sponsor. You can  
enter as an independent. Show your  
leather pride. Show the world that  
the best leather community in the US  
is San Francisco. Be proud of your  
heritage. Get active. Get involved!

**THANKS HRDR**  
In spite of some minor glitches, you  
pulled it off. We hope next year's  
theme is an "indoor" one.

**TWO MAJOR LEATHER  
EVENTS THIS WEEKEND:**  
Friday: Mr. Daddy's Leather - 9PM  
Saturday: Mr. Powerhouse Leather -  
9pm. Come see Julian Marshburn and  
Damon Holzum "step aside" from  
their 2003 titles.



## ADULT JOBS OFFERED

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good, be passionate. Email  
paul@treasureislandmedia.com or  
call Paul at 415-437-6696 ext #3  
WWW.TREASUREISLAND  
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**SEAN  
GREENE**

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**10PM-CLOSE**  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19TH



## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY from the Healthy Penis

My fellow citizens, most of you know that for over two years I have been working my butt off providing information to you about the syphilis epidemic in San Francisco. I've met many of you at Gay Pride, street fairs and in bars and clubs. I think you like me and appreciate all my efforts – **I can feel the love.**

However, some have complained that I'm a joke. They say my stories are silly and that I don't take syphilis seriously. **Believe me, no one in this town is more serious about syphilis than me.** I happen to think that learning about syphilis can be fun. But, people who want to see photos of sores or who want more facts and figures can find that on my website – [www.healthypenis2004.org](http://www.healthypenis2004.org).

A lot of people seem to want to know more statistics about how syphilis is spreading. Everyone who gets syphilis is interviewed by the Department of Public Health. **Some trends have emerged.** For instance, the majority of men who are getting syphilis are HIV positive. In fact, it appears that **positive men are 2-3 times more likely to get it.**

Use of crystal meth is also reported by a lot of guys who have syphilis. **Meth users are up to 4 times more likely to get syphilis** than guys who do not use meth.

Finally, a majority of men getting syphilis said that **they hook-up with guys online.**

We know that all gay men who are out there having sex could be getting and passing syphilis. Men who have more partners and use less protection are more likely to get infected. Guys who are HIV positive, use meth, or meet online are at higher risk.

The most important thing is that we all need to get tested.  
**Get tested now, and again every 3-6 months.**

Thank you,  
Healthy Penis



# GET TESTED FOR SYPHILIS

[www.healthypenis2004.org](http://www.healthypenis2004.org) 415.487.5580

FUNDED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH STD PREVENTION & CONTROL SERVICES

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